

THE TIMES

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Cabinet wrangle over budget plans

Dorrell seeks £1 billion to rescue NHS

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

STEPHEN DORRELL will today appeal to the Cabinet over the head of the Treasury for the extra £1 billion that he insists is needed to prevent a crisis in the hospital service.



Dorrell pressing for another £300 million

The Health Secretary was reported last night to be ready to "go to the wire" in his efforts to bridge the gap between his target of £1 billion and the £700 million he has won in a protracted negotiations. He is one of a handful of ministers yet to settle with the Treasury. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, was reported last night to be fighting Kenneth Clarke's attempt to make deeper cuts in his £22 billion budget and he, too, may make a personal plea to Cabinet colleagues.

Mr Dorrell's friends are making plain that the extra money for hospitals is essential to prevent the damaging spectacle this winter of wards being closed down temporarily, patients being transported from hospital to hospital, longer waiting lists, and incidents of patients being left on trolleys for hours at a time.

an "even keel" for the future. Mr Major and Mr Clarke were clearly brought into the talks because of the implications for the Chancellor's hopes of cutting taxes. Mr Dorrell and his close supporters contend that tax cuts cannot be made at the expense of hospital closures. They want to convince the health service professions that the Government is not merely "handcuffing" its problems but safeguarding its future growth. Jerry Hayes, the Conservative MP for Harlow, said health spending should not be sacrificed. He said: "You do not go into a general election saying, 'Oh, we've cut the basic rate of tax by 2p but the health service and education and the public services generally are in trouble'."



Nadia Zekra with her husband yesterday after the bomb case against her was dropped

Bomb case woman cleared

By Michael Horsnell

THE case against a housewife accused of planting a car bomb outside the Israeli Embassy in London in a bid to destroy the Middle East peace talks collapsed yesterday when a judge described evidence as suspect.

Nadia Zekra, a mother of two who was said to have left an Audi car parked outside the building and walked off carrying a Harrods bag, wept as she hugged her husband and friends outside the Old Bailey. Mr Justice Garland accepted a defence submission that Mrs Zekra, 49, who had denied causing the explosion

in July 1994, had no case to answer after a month of prosecution evidence. The judge said that identification evidence was "fraught with pitfalls." He said also that evidence by a police constable on duty at the embassy was "suspect with serious inconsistencies."

Noye plotted to steal millions in cash machine fraud, court told

By Stephen Farrell and Stewart Tendler

KENNETH NOYE, one of Britain's most wanted men, conspired to steal hundreds of millions of pounds from cashpoint machines in a plot that could have brought the banking system to its knees, a court heard yesterday.

land Yard's Organised Crime Group. Martin Grant was recruited while serving 16 years in Brixton open prison for attempting to murder his wife and her child.

Noye, 49, a suspect in the M25 road rage murder of Stephen Cameron, was part of an elite team of underworld criminals brought together to pull off one of the biggest crimes in history, it was alleged.

While in jail he was taking a degree in electronic communications and digital logic design and was approached by the conspirators while on day release at a van hire firm owned by Paul Kidd, one of the defendants. At first he agreed to help but later changed his mind and confided in the Rev John Bourne.

He later gave a 300-page statement to police and is now



Noye "put banking system at risk"

Had they succeeded "the banking system of this country would have been put at risk", Miss Ann Curnow, for the prosecution, told Southwark Crown Court in London. Seven men yesterday admitted conspiracy to steal cash from banks, building societies and financial institutions between January 1 and July 25 1995. They included John Lloyd, a suspect in the 1983 Brink's-Mat robbery, whose wife was jailed for five years for handling stolen bullion, and William Hayward, who was once jailed for shooting the gangster, "Mad Frankie" Frazer. Noye was sentenced to 14 years for handling gold from the Brink's Mat robbery.

Confidential information from customers would have been downloaded using computers and transferred onto false plastic cards which they would then use to withdraw cash from machines around the country. But the gang was caught when a computer expert recruited in jail told the prison chaplain, who informed Scot-

Kensington to oust Scott

The Conservative MP Sir Nicholas Scott last night lost the first round of his fight to avoid deselection after being found slumped in the street during the party conference.

An emergency meeting of the Kensington and Chelsea constituency executive rejected a medical explanation for the collapse and voted to replace him. Sir Nicholas insisted that he would take the fight for his seat to the full constituency association.

Gascoigne asks forgiveness for 'the rage inside me'

By Row Hughes

PAUL GASCOIGNE told a football press conference yesterday of his remorse over the incident in which he was accused of beating his wife and blamed the "rage inside me".

rights to say that. But I've been having two lots of counselling, for my private life and football, and since those started I feel a totally different person.

"I can't go into great detail about the incident," said the England and Rangers soccer player, "but I deeply regret what happened with Sheryl. It will live with me for the rest of my life."

Clear-eyed and contrite, Gascoigne called his own press conference after a subdued training session at Bisham Abbey, Bucks. His audience of 30 radio, TV and football reporters, men and women, concluded 20 minutes of cross-examination and Gascoigne's self-analysis with appropriate applause.

short period. I've maybe five years left. Beyond that I have to be the man."

Polls put Clinton ahead in 31 states

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER, IN WASHINGTON

WITH eight eve-of-election polls giving him leads of four to 18 points President Clinton looks almost certain to be returned to the White House today despite last-minute Republican warnings that his administration would be debilitated by scandal.

Americans will also elect a new Congress today, and the Republicans promised another wave of investigations if they retain control, in particular of the huge Asian contributions to the Democrats' war chest revealed during the campaign's final days.

An outright majority would allow Mr Clinton, elected with 43 per cent of the vote in 1992, to claim that the people have considered and dismissed the charges against him.

Half of yesterday's eight polls put Mr Clinton's support above 50 per cent. In only two did Bob Dole achieve 40 per cent, while Ross Perot had 7 to 9 per cent. A final survey of state polls showed Mr Clinton leading in 31 states with 377 electoral college votes, 107 more than he requires for victory, and Mr Dole leading



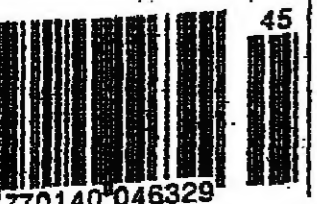
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Rapier leaves no evidence of wounding

Looking down at the Government front bench assembled for Questions yesterday, I felt unsettled. Something was different, but what? The picture seemed familiar: Welsh Secretary at Dispatch box, flanked by junior ministers. Civil servants in their box. Beside ministers, the Duty Whip, exercise-book opened across her lap, and...

Her lap? So that was it! A lady whip! To see a woman in the role amazes us, as those who saw the first woman police constable must have been amazed. Soon we shall think nothing of it, but the initial encounter knocks you back. Jacqui Lait has been described by the Chief Whip Alistair Goodlad as "a good man". Green-suited

on the green bench yesterday, she looked a motherly figure in her new position as departmental whip for Wales. Of 38 MPs for Wales, 37 are men.

After Welsh Questions came the debate on Michael Howard's Crime (Sentences) Bill. It was refreshing to be reminded of what was once a Tory speciality: old-fashioned courtesy. The rapier instead of the crowbar. The politesse which subtly wounds.

At this, Douglas Hurd is unsurpassed. In a speech on the present Home Secretary's Bill, this former Home Secretary spoke not a word about Michael Howard except in his praise. Indeed he singled him out for support. Yet Mr Hurd left us confident he thought the Bill an ill-considered piece of



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

vulgar populism; confident — yet unable to cite a single sentence by way of example. Hurd attacked, not Mr Howard, but Howard's Labour Shadow, Jack Straw. "After much thought, extensive research, and — probably nowadays — a little prayer," he chuckled, of new Labour's policymaking process.

Hurd considered Mr Howard's populism ill-judged, but he did not say so. He said we must all be careful to give prisons the attention they deserved.

By the time Douglas Hurd sat down yesterday, we felt sure we had heard a call for a

more humane and cautious approach to prisons. He had tickled Michael Howard lightly with his rapier, but the wound was palpable. In cold print, this morning, however, *Hansard* will yield little to support that interpretation.

Mr Hurd was followed, from his own side, by another former Home Secretary, Kenneth Baker. Mr Baker was less arch in his implied criticism.

Praising Hurd's argument, he described his concern for prisons, now "virtually bursting at the seams". In a memorable passage he remarked that he had visited more prisons than most. Prisoners were for the most part not monsters but "inadequate people: failures in life, failures

at crime. Ignorant, badly educated, often almost illiterate, unskilled and untrained". Prisons, he added, "are not full of professional criminals; they are full of professional prisoners".

Kenneth Baker resumed his seat. His speech had implied criticism, not just of Mr Howard's Bill, but of his whole approach to criminology. But in *Hansard* this morning you will find not a word you could call disloyal.

After Douglas Hurd's speech, Labour's Donald Anderson (Swansea E) had told MPs they had just heard "the voice of a different age of Toryism".

After hearing Kenneth Baker too, I felt sure that he was right.

Baker and Hurd attack Howard on Crime Bill

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

DOUGLAS HURD and Kenneth Baker, both former Tory Home Secretaries, yesterday combined in a strong attack on Michael Howard's plans for tough mandatory sentences for repeat offenders.

They joined other senior Tories to warn the Home Secretary against turning the Crime (Sentences) Bill into a "race for votes". In the first sign of serious Conservative unease about the centre-piece to the Government's last programme before the election, Mr Hurd and Mr Baker were joined by Peter Brooke, the former Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Peter Lloyd, the former Home Office minister and Robert Jackson, the former Education Minister, in voicing reservations about the Bill. They called for greater emphasis on education and

training within prisons and said that plans for greater honesty in sentencing could lead to greater pressure on judges to impose longer sentences.

The Bill, which came up for Second Reading in the Commons yesterday, would force courts to impose life sentences on anyone convicted for a second time of a serious violent or sexual crime, such as attempted murder or rape. Minimum sentences of seven years for drug trafficking and three years for burglary would also be imposed on third time offenders.

Mr Howard's proposals have been attacked by some judges but yesterday's remarks, in what appeared to be a co-ordinated effort, form the strongest criticism yet of the plans from within the Tory party.

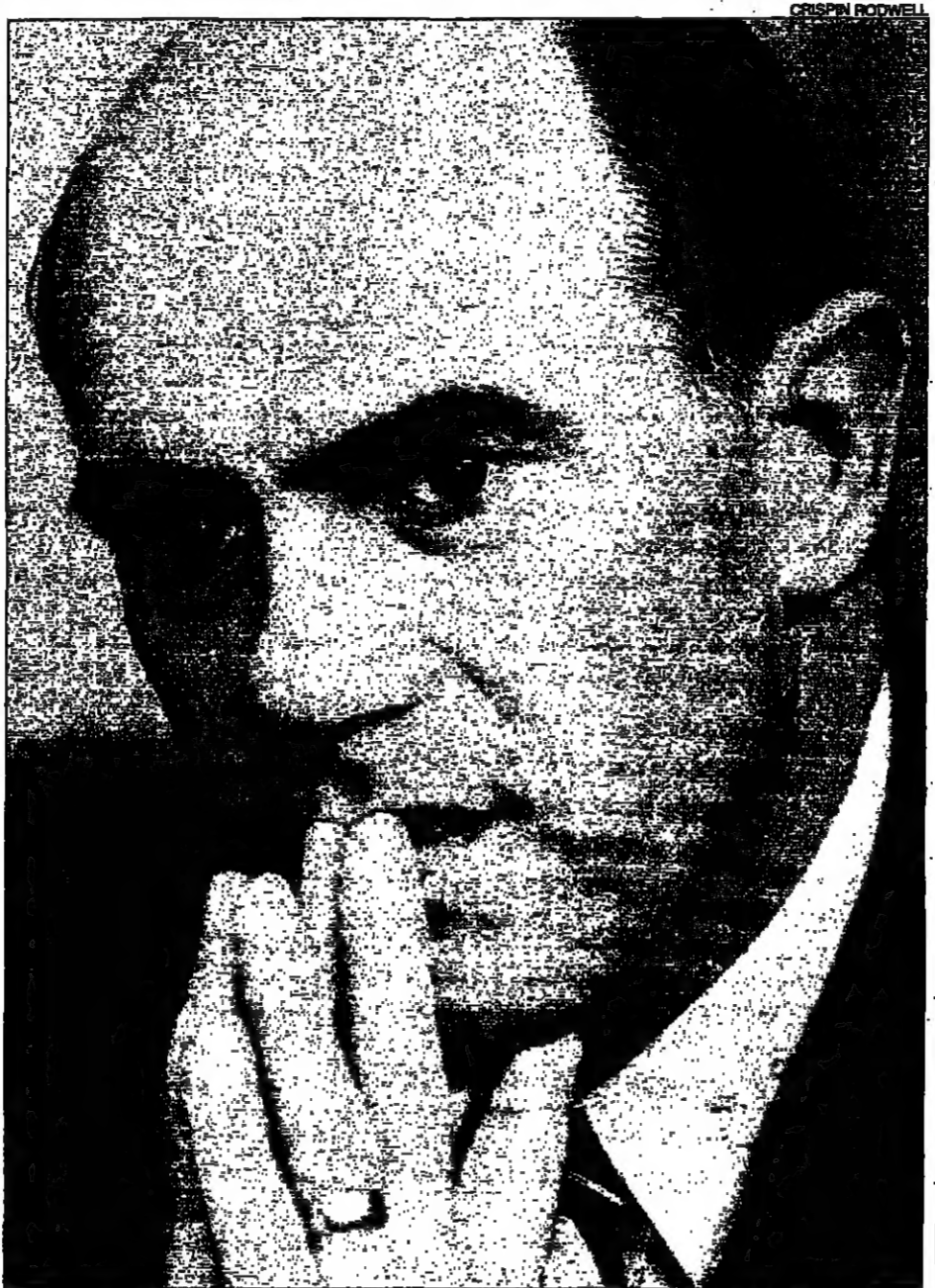
Mr Baker, MP for Mole Valley, told MPs: "The evidence on minimum sentences in America is at best not proven. Others would say that they are ineffective and potentially dangerous. He warned Mr Howard that violent criminals or rapists, offending for a third time, could well consider killing their victim because they now faced the same sentence as murder. He understood the Government's desire to signal that criminals faced tough sentences but warned: "They must be careful to monitor this provision to make sure that they do not have any unwanted and perverse effects."

Mr Baker warned that the Bill would be "unacceptable" without the judges' discretionary powers to ignore the mandatory sentences.

Mr Hurd, MP for Witney, called for greater emphasis on education within prisons, which he said was central to the criminal justice system. He warned of the dangers of ignoring rehabilitation within prisons. "In the medium term, whether prison works depends not just on the length of the sentence but what happens in the prison," he said.

"The case for training, probation, for work, education in prisons, is the case for the future protection of the public and is directly relevant to this Bill. If this case is neglected, then it is possible that our prisons will turn out more accomplished criminals and the purpose of this Bill will in medium and long term be frustrated."

Mackay interview, page 8



Ronnie Flanagan speaking on his first day as Chief Constable of the RUC

New RUC chief warns of further IRA attacks

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

RONNIE FLANAGAN, the new Chief Constable of the RUC, confirmed yesterday that the IRA leadership held "a very significant" meeting over the weekend to determine the future of its terrorist campaign.

Speaking in Belfast on his first day in his new post, Mr Flanagan said there was little chance of an imminent IRA ceasefire and warned of further bomb attacks in Northern Ireland and on the British mainland. However, Mr Flanagan said he believed that IRA would eventually renew its ceasefire because republicans knew that they could achieve their aims more effectively by political means.

His comments came after intense speculation over the weekend that the IRA held a rare General Army Convention, the supreme decision-making body.

The Chief Constable stopped short of describing the meeting as a convention. But he added: "We believe a very significant meeting took place



Bruton: echoed views on terrorist violence

that the terrorists would eventually declare a truce. He said: "There has to be an ending of violence because violence serves no purpose whatever."

His comments were echoed by John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister. Speaking in Dublin, he said: "There is serious rethinking going on in the republican movement. There is a realisation that violence is literally self-defeating. Twenty five years of violence has disrupted the country more than any external agent."

Unionists yesterday accused the Government of making concessions to the IRA in order to prevent further terrorist attacks. Their comments came after it emerged that John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, had acted as intermediary between the Government and Sinn Féin to negotiate the terms for a renewed IRA ceasefire. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, denied the Government was negotiating with Sinn Féin or the IRA.

over the past weekend. I am said to report at this stage that I have nothing to hand which indicates that a restoration of the ceasefire is imminent. He expected the terrorists would attack "highly selective" targets, including security bases and individuals.

Although Mr Flanagan was pessimistic about the chances of a renewed IRA ceasefire in the short term, he was hopeful

Noye

Continued from page 1
data on tens of thousands of bank, credit card and building society customers.

Noye was not arrested or charged, but Miss Curnow said: "Noye played a prominent role in various meetings organised by Lloyd in connection with these matters. Certain it is that Noye and Lloyd were close associates."

The seven defendants will be sentenced next month after pleading guilty to conspiracy to steal. They face a maximum of seven years in jail. Their guilty pleas came after 10 days of legal argument during which defence lawyers sought to have the case dismissed for lack of admissible evidence.

Judge Geoffrey Rivlin, QC, said: "The conspirators had dreams of realising vast amounts of money possibly running into hundreds of millions of pounds."

"The prosecution case is that both in the UK and across the globe the gang planned to obtain cash from ATMs by the use of counterfeit cash and credit cards."

The court was guarded by police marksmen inside the building and on surrounding roofs throughout the hearing and the judge agreed to 24-hour protection for the jury in the event of a trial.

The defendants, John Lloyd, 57, of West Kingsdown; Paul Kidd, 36, of Meopham; Graham Moore, 32, of Erith; Stephen Seton, 65, of Chislehurst, all of Kent; Stephen Moore, 41, of Leytonstone, east London; William Hayward of Yalding, Kent and John Maguire, 36, of Motttingham, Kent, admitted conspiracy to steal cash from banks, building societies and financial institutions. They denied a charge of conspiracy to defraud, which will be allowed to lie on file.

Noye, who served eight years for handling proceeds of the £26 million Brink's Mat gold bullion robbery in 1983, is currently wanted for questioning by Kent police in connection with the death of Stephen Cameron in May. He is thought to be in Spain.

At one time Noye was suspected of hiding in northern Cyprus, where he has had holidays and investigated buying property. There were also rumours he had flown to Russia where he has also examined business opportunities.

British Telecom last night admitted that the gang gained access to the telephone exchanges through corrupt BT employees but denied security had been lax.

"BT personnel identified but have been dismissed and a further member of the gang had already left the company," a spokesman said.

"The fraud was not successful and no credit cards were actually cloned. We are confident that our security procedures meant that the proposed fraud could not have succeeded, even without the intervention of the police."

Electronic conspiracy, page 6

I was national disgrace, admits Duchess of York

The Duchess of York has admitted that she was unworthy to be a member of the Royal Family in a surprisingly self-critical autobiography, serialised in *Hello!* magazine. The Duchess admits that she became "a national disgrace" after the infamous "toe-sucking" topless photographs of her were published. *Hello!* paid more than £100,000 for serialisation rights to her autobiography.

Airline may sue brawling family

A father and son whose brawl forced an Airtours flight from Tenerife to Birmingham to divert to Lisbon could face a hefty bill from the airline. The father, identified only as a man in his 60s from west Yorkshire, and his son, in his 30s, were released without charge. Airtours said it was considering suing them for the cost of diverting the flight.

Argentine general visits MoD

The most senior Argentine military officer to make an official visit to Britain since the Falklands war was greeted outside the Ministry of Defence by a ceremonial guard mounted by the Royal Regiment of Wales. Lieutenant-General Martin Balza, who fought as an artillery officer in the war, spent the day with ministers and officials.

Arran ferry strike called off

A ferry strike that would have cut the only mainland link to Arran, off western Scotland, was called off at the last minute yesterday. The RMT union representing 140 Caledonian MacBraynes ferryman held five hours of talks with management to avert a strike arising from a pay dispute. The union said that it had reached an improved deal.

Phone pest quits school

A teacher has resigned his post as head of religious studies at a public school after bombarding a music mistress with nuisance calls. James Hobson, 54, who taught at Wells Cathedral School, Somerset, had been cautioned by police for making 913 calls to Julie Wood, 37, when she ended their relationship.

Ex-soldiers on kidnap charge

Two former soldiers, Derek Neale, 34, and Derek Lazell, 43, both of Basildon, Essex, were remanded in custody for a week at Stevenage, Hertfordshire, accused of kidnapping and false imprisonment of Joanne Norris, 30, a secretary. Police are planning to fly to Turkey, where Ms Norris was last night reported safe with her former husband.

Harassed woman took overdose

A widow who recovered from cancer died of a drug overdose after she was plagued for months by noisy neighbours, an inquest was told. Sylvia Stewart, 56, of Chalmers Wood, Solihull, kept a diary of the harassment she suffered. The landing outside her two-bedroom flat was regularly strewn with dirty nappies and empty beer cans.

Tourism warning by travel agents

Mass tourism is threatening the world's most remote and beautiful places, some tour operators said at the Association of British Travel Agents' annual convention in Istanbul. Roger Heape, managing director of British Airways Holidays, urged delegates and foreign governments not to allow unrestricted growth.

Landlord defied drinks ban

Stephen Williams of the Coach Inn at Clynog Fawr, North Wales, was fined £350 for selling drinks to non-residents on a Sunday in Britain's only "dry" area. Tomorrow a referendum will decide whether pubs can open on Sundays in the new area of Gwynedd, created by a merger of "dry" Dwyfor and "wet" Caernarfon and Merionnydd.

ITV chiefs plan monarchy poll

ITV is to hold a poll on the future of the monarchy as the centrepiece of its winter factual programming. The investigative journalist Roger Cook will present *Monarchy*. — *The Nation Decides*, to be screened in the new year. It will feature a 1,000-strong audience at the NEC in Birmingham and a telephone poll of millions more.

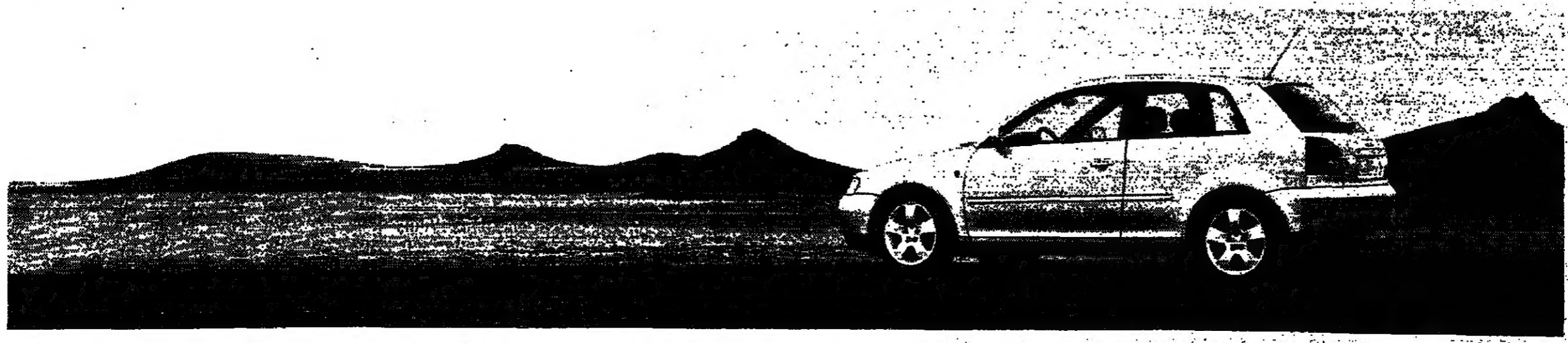
Light relief for Prince in Kiev



The Prince of Wales, who is touring former Soviet republics in central Asia, sat down for pre-dinner drinks with President Kuchma of Ukraine yesterday when the Mariyinsky Palace in Kiev was blacked out. A limousine was driven up to the doors, which were swung open for the car lights to illuminate the hall until power was restored.

Gallagher award fetches £8,500

An Oasis fan has paid £8,500 for the Ivor Novello songwriting award snubbed by Noel Gallagher. The proceeds will go to help children with cancer. Gallagher, 29, did not turn up at the award ceremony because it was given jointly to Blur, which he saw as a publicity stunt to prolong the so-called "battle of the bands".



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'It was just like Richard Gere and Julia Roberts in the film Pretty Woman'

Business with tax inspector turned to love, says prostitute

By TIM JONES

A PROSTITUTE told the Old Bailey yesterday that she was paid hundreds of pounds to have regular sex with a senior Inland Revenue tax inspector in a West End hotel.

Michelle Corrigan said that Michael Allcock told her he looked after rich people's finances. "I took it to mean he was some kind of financial adviser," she said.

The prosecution alleges that Mr Allcock's first session with Miss Corrigan was paid for by Hisham Alwan, an Iraqi-born oil consultant who paid eight hotel bills for the couple. In return Mr Alwan did not have to pay a £120,000 tax bill, according to the prosecution.

Mr Allcock, 47, from Colchester, denies 13 charges of corruption between 1987 and 1992. Mr Alwan, 56, from Knightsbridge, London, denies three charges of corruption. David Sharoon, 66, from West Kensington, London, denies one allegation of corruption.

Miss Corrigan, 30, told the court that her relationship with Mr Allcock changed from a financial transaction into love. She said she was doing part-time modelling in the 1980s when she met a man in Essex she named as David Sullivan.

When she visited him, he asked her if she was interested in escort work. He allegedly gave her Mr Alwan's number and she rang him the next day. "I went to a flat in the Olympia area and while there I had sexual intercourse with Mr Alwan. He gave me about £200 cash and a cheque for £300."

Later she met him at Carlton Court in Maida Vale, which she described as flatlets "just like a hotel, really". She received about "a couple of hundred quid" each time they met. Mr Alwan later told her he owed a friend a favour and introduced her to Mr Allcock at the hotel and gave her a white envelope.

"I had a quick look into the envelope. It was in cash - £200. It was the first time I had ever seen Mr Allcock. I



Cadogan Gardens, "a very flash sort of house"

slept with him." The second time they met Mr Alwan dropped Mr Allcock off at the door of the hotel from a white Mercedes. Mr Allcock had given her a cheque for £200. "I met him about a dozen times at the Carlton Court and continued to have sex with him. Every time I met him, he gave me another cheque or cash."

"Sometimes it was only £20, sometimes it was £200, sometimes more. I was given cheques for about £200 or £250, sometimes more. I put them into my bank."

Miss Corrigan said they had stopped going to Carlton Court because Mr Allcock had got a rash from the sheets and "he wanted somewhere a bit nicer". "He told me he had found a nice place at Cadogan Gardens. We met there for about a couple of years. I met him once a week, sometimes not in a couple of weeks, sometimes less than that."

She described Cadogan Gardens as a "very posh, very Sloane", very flash sort of house. They usually used the same room. "It was our joke. It was number 69. I did not know what he did. He did not tell me anything."

Miss Corrigan said she was "gob-smacked" when she later learnt he was a tax inspector. She had not asked what he did "because we were too busy having a good time". She said: "I could see he was a wealthy man, taking me to nice places

and buying me lovely things." She told the court they began to fall in love. Miss Corrigan agreed with Anthony Arlidge, QC, for the defence, that the affair was "in *Pretty Woman* territory". Like the actors in the film, their relationship changed quickly from sex for cash to one of love.

Mr Arlidge said: "Although you started off as client and prostitute within a short time the two of you had fallen in love with each other."

Miss Corrigan replied: "Yes, that is right. Our relationship gradually changed. He wanted to see me more often and stop seeing other people. I was falling in love with him."

Miss Corrigan agreed that she had an impudent streak and said that on one occasion when a pompous couple annoyed her in a restaurant, she reacted to them by pulling up her skirt and showing them her underwear.

They twice went on holiday together, which the prosecution alleges was at the expense of other wealthy businessmen whom Mr Allcock, 49, was investigating. On the first trip, to Marbella, they were taken by taxi to a villa. "He had been there before and knew where everything was," Miss Corrigan said. "He said he would take me to the Marbella Beach Club."

"There was champagne and wine in the fridge with some food and some flowers with a note. We polished off the champagne," Miss Corrigan told the jury. They had gone shopping and he had bought her clothes and shoes.

"He said he had a bank account and was putting money into it monthly. He talked about buying a house. We were in love, planning a future together. Our relationship became more permanent," she said.

On a second trip a year later - this time to Majorca - they stayed at a large villa with a swimming pool. While there Mr Allcock gave her £1,000 in cash, Miss Corrigan said. Mr Allcock paid six months' rent of £1,500 on her flat in Portsmouth and paid off her £1,000 credit card debt, the court was told.

Other gifts included a £675 watch, designer clothes, shoes and make-up from Gucci and Harvey Nichols. She had wanted a new car and he gave her a £3,000 cheque towards it, she said, and money towards his insurance. They stayed together at various hotels in Brighton, Hampshire and Surrey. On her birthday he took Miss Corrigan to The Sporting Club in London.

When he was suspended "he said he would not be able to see me for a while and if people asked me questions, just to say how we met in a wine bar and not to mention Hisham's name," she said.

Miss Corrigan said he told her not to mention David Sullivan or anyone else or he would be in trouble. "People like David Sullivan did not mess about," she said he told her. The trial continues.



Miss Corrigan said that every time she met Mr Allcock he gave her cash or a cheque

Teenager given three months for carrying a knife

By A STAFF REPORTER

A TEENAGER who claimed he bought a "lethal" hunting knife for use in fishing trips was sent to a young offenders' institution for 90 days yesterday. Glen Sibbons, 19, a first-time offender, became the second man within four days to be jailed under new laws against knife carriers.

Last week Dean Payne, 26, was the first man to be jailed under the new legislation. He was sentenced to two weeks for carrying three knives.

At Marylebone Magistrates' Court, David Kennett-Brown accepted Payne did not have the weapons for offensive purposes but said that "in the light of the great public fear" of people carrying knives, a prison sentence was called for. It was a view that Rosamond Keating, a fellow supendary magistrate, formed in Sibbons's case.

He claimed he bought the black-handled knife with a chunky six-inch blade for fishing. But, holding the knife up at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court in Westminster, Mrs Keating said: "This is a lethal weapon."

She sent Sibbons, a labourer, to a young offenders' institution for 90 days, saying: "An offence of having a knife like this is so serious that only a custodial sentence can be justified."

Sibbons, of east London, had previously pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of a bladed article, an offence that only became imprisonable on

July 4 this year under the Offensive Weapons Act.

Alun Milford, for the prosecution, told the court that on September 6 Sibbons and a group of friends had been drinking at Kavanagh's Irish Bar in the Old Brompton Road, Chelsea, and were involved in an argument.

The assistant manager asked them to leave after Sibbons told him he had a knife. He pulled the weapon out of one pocket and a sheath from another, replacing the weapon in his pocket after putting it into the sheath.

Police were called as the group was leaving the club and when stopped, Sibbons denied he was carrying a knife. The sheath was found in his pocket but not the knife, which was then spotted in the gutter near to where Sibbons was standing.

When interviewed later, he said he had been drunk that night but denied having the knife on him. But Sibbons admitted the offence at an earlier hearing, when he was bailed for reports.

He claimed he had bought the knife from a workmate three or four weeks before his arrest and had left it in his locker. He said he intended to use it on fishing trips and only had it with him on the night in question because he had cleared his locker out before leaving work. Sibbons had no previous convictions but had been cautioned in 1994 for having an offensive weapon.



The Atlantic by oar, the Horn by paddle, the World by sail. All by Rolex.

On his twenty-first birthday John Ridgway's father gave him a Rolex. "My mother had a Rolex, so that's probably why," he says. At the time none of them could have guessed what trials it was to be put through.

First Ridgway rowed across the North Atlantic in an open boat. Next he trekked the length of the Amazon from source to sea. Then he went on to make the first crossing of the Gran Campo ice-cap in Patagonia.

Still not satisfied, he embarked on

ture School near Cape Wrath in Scotland, where he passes his leadership skills on to the intrepid.

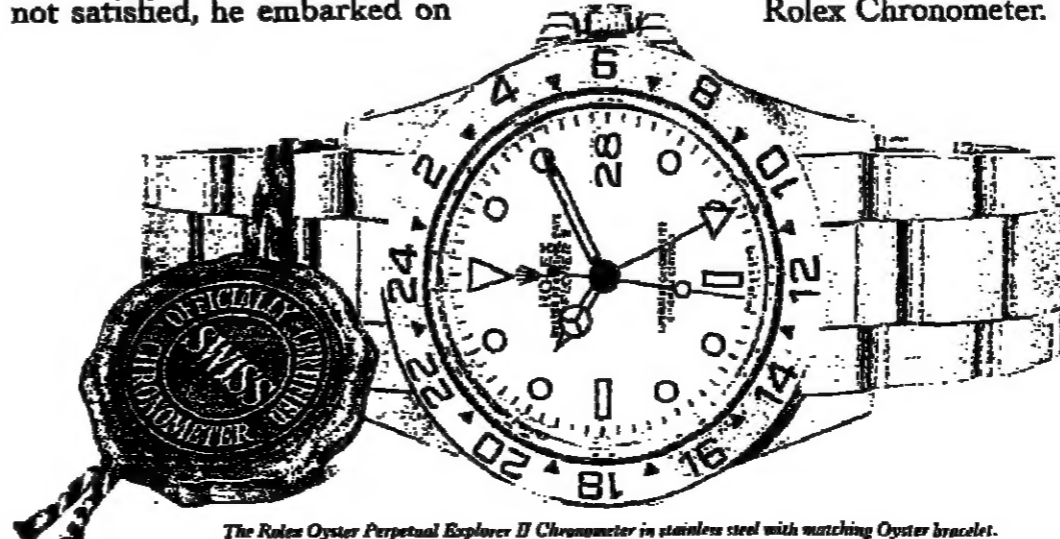
"Positive thinking is all-important, and direct physical challenges, such as surviving a storm, sharpen the mind remarkably," he observes. Then he adds, "The challenges of modern life can be rather more insidious."

Blizzards, hurricanes, icebergs, tropical storms; it seems John Ridgway shrugs off everything but his trusted and well-travelled

Rolex Chronometer.



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Labour high-flyer robbed party account of £30,000

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE accountant who wore smart suits and lived in an expensive flat appeared to be the model parliamentary candidate for new Labour.

But David Hurst was secretly siphoning thousands of pounds from his constituency party's bank accounts to pay for his lifestyle. Bristol Crown Court was told yesterday.

The former Bath party treasurer admitted four specimen charges of forging constituency party cheques and asked for 38 other offences to be taken into consideration. He was jailed for 15 months.

Hurst, 35, was chosen as prospective parliamentary candidate to fight Bath in July last year after serving two years as treasurer. The seat was won at the last general election by the Liberal Democrat Don Foster from Chris Patten, the former Conservative Party chairman.

He was forced to step down as treasurer two months later when he was exposed in *The Sun* newspaper as a benefit cheat who had fraudulently claimed unemployment benefit and rent for four years while working as an account-



Hurst stole to support lifestyle beyond means

ant for 50 small businesses. Labour Party officials ordered an investigation into the party's own books. The inquiry revealed that thousands of pounds were missing and he was arrested shortly afterwards.

The court was told that Hurst, from Bath, began forging the signature of another authorised signatory on local party cheques in March 1994. Martin Pictou, for the prosecution, said that altogether he transferred 42 cheques from a

party account to his own bank and later withdrew the cash. In total he siphoned off £31,014.

Neil Ford, for Hurst, said he began forging cheques when he found himself in debt. The fraud coincided with his rapid rise through the ranks of the local Labour Party.

Mr Ford said: "It was quite plain they were viewing him as a potential party candidate in Bath. There was a pressure to live up to their expectations. He moved to a better flat, bought smarter clothes and lived well beyond his means. It was all done to pay off his debts and, rather pathetically, to support the image." Towards the end, he had turned to gambling in an attempt to win back the stolen money.

Hurst's position as prospective parliamentary candidate has been taken by another accountant, Tim Bush. Labour hopes to double the 4,102 votes polled in April 1992.

Ross Hayman, a regional party officer, said after the hearing: "We have now put this episode behind us and we are working very hard with Tim Bush in preparation for the forthcoming election campaign."

Academics join battle over site of business school

By JOHN O'LEARY

THE fate of Oxford University's proposed £40 million business school is likely to go to a ballot of dons, whatever the outcome of a highly charged debate in the university parliament this afternoon.

Hundreds of academics are expected to attend today's meeting of Congregation to vote on a special resolution releasing the University Club sports ground to be the site for the building that will house the school. But either side can demand a postal vote if the result is not clear-cut.

Professor John Kay, who will head Oxford's School of Management Studies, said a postal vote seemed inevitable, but today's vote would be crucial to the project's success. "Even if the result was reversed later, it would be hugely damaging if the vote in Congregation went the wrong way. It would make it much more difficult to recruit top academics or attract donors."

There has been speculation that Wafic Said, the Middle Eastern businessman, might withdraw his £20 million do-

nation if the proposal is rejected. No alternative site has been identified for the school.

Opponents might be voting for a variety of reasons. Some disapprove of Mr Said, a friend of Baroness Thatcher who helped British Aerospace win a big arms contract with Saudi Arabia. Others would prefer that university fundraising activities were concentrated on other disciplines.

A flysheet in the latest *Oxford University Gazette* argues that scarce sports facilities will be further depleted if the scheme goes ahead. The land was sold to the university by Merton College in 1964 on condition that it was kept as open space. Another site has been promised for the University Club, but the flysheet's signatories say: "The university should place greater value on its own word and the amenity of the citizens of Oxford than the desire of an individual donor to have his building on the last remaining greenfield site in central Oxford."

Leading article, page 21



Gladstone bags model job but opts for A levels

A 16-YEAR-OLD descendant of William Gladstone, the Liberal Prime Minister, has turned her back on a lucrative modelling contract in Paris to study for her A levels (Kathryn Knight writes).

Olivia Inge, the great-great-granddaughter of William Gladstone, was offered her own apartment, a clothing allowance and potential earnings of £10,000 a day after being spotted by



Inge: Gladstone's great-great-granddaughter

the French agency Metropolitan while visiting an aunt in Paris last month. Instead, she chose to complete her A levels in English, theatre studies and French at Wells Cathedral School in Somerset, turning down the chance to join Metropolitan models Eva Herzigova and Claudia Schiffer. "Although I was tempted, I decided I wanted to get my A levels behind me," Miss Inge said. "Mod-

elling is an extremely tough world and I need something to fall back on."

One cousin, Cecilia Chagellor, is a model and another is the actress Anna Chancellor. — *Duckface in Four Weddings and a Funeral* Miss Inge is not spurning modelling completely. She is hoping to work for the London agency Models One during her school holidays.

Increase in appeals over exams disrupts university admissions

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

AN UPSURGE in appeals against GCSE and A-level grades is forcing examining boards and universities to rethink their traditional procedures, according to the head of the independent authority which arbitrates on disputes.

University admissions officers reported a big increase in the thousands of A-level grades increased on appeal this summer. Some universities are now holding places open while candidates challenge their grades and there are proposals for an express service to ensure that the process is completed in time for degree admissions to go ahead smoothly.

Dame Elizabeth Anson, who chairs the Independent Appeals Authority for School Examinations, said yesterday that a culture of appeals had grown up at schools and parents recognised the potential benefits. A variety of explanations has been put forward for the trend, including the influence of examina-

tion league tables. Martin Stephen, the High Master of Manchester Grammar School, wrote in *The Times* on Friday that an unscrupulous school could use an appeal as an excuse for not submitting poor A-level results.

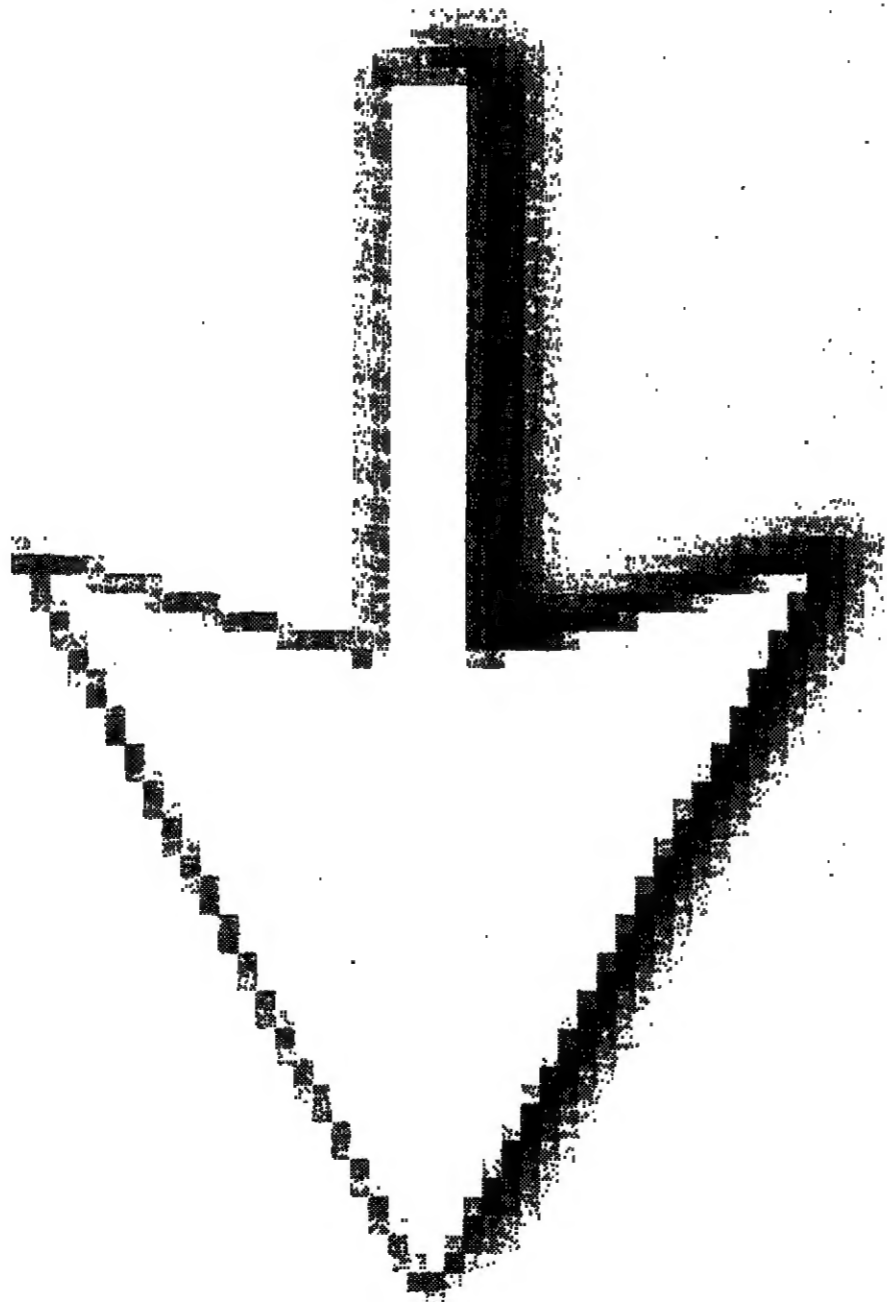
Anthony McClaran, deputy chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, said universities were obliged to accept applicants whose amended results met

the terms of their offer by the end of August, but most were willing to hold open a place for the following year if the appeal dragged on. Most appeals take less than a month, but large numbers remain to be settled when the academic year begins.

At a press conference in London to launch the IAASE's annual report, Lady Anson said: "Even if you apply as quickly as you can, you still could not get your place at university because it is already settled. We would like universities to wait at least until the end of September before they reject someone who is in the process of appealing."

Proposals for a reform of the appeals process are expected later this year when arrangements are finalised for a single body to oversee academic and vocational examinations. Among the issues under consideration will be whether to give schools the right to examine contested examination papers for the first time.

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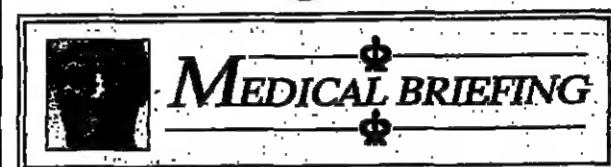
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Deadly double of smoke and drink encourages cancer



Dr Thomas Stuttford

IF only Barry Porter, the Conservative MP who died of throat cancer this week, had limited his enthusiasm to beer without tobacco he might have avoided the cancer which killed him.

When Mr Porter started in local politics, it operated in a traditionally smoke-filled, beer-drinking environment. The association between cigarettes, alcohol and cancer is an interesting one.

A cursory glance at the statistics would make any drinker leave his glass of beer or whisky untouched. The standard reference book, *Alcohol and the Gastro-Intestinal Tract*, says that 75 per cent of oesophageal gullet cancers and 50 per cent of mouth and laryngeal cancers in the United States are associated with drinking. For many of those who enjoy an evening drink, the good news is lower down on the same page.

Despite the actual statistical association and exhaustive experimental studies, none has shown alcohol to be directly cancer forming, but they have demonstrated that alcohol, when combined with an environmental factor, in particular tobacco, can be

deadly. Research among workers in the distillery industry within the past few years demonstrated that light spirit drinking was not, contrary to popular belief, associated with increased oesophageal cancer and that in fact light spirit drinkers had a lower incidence of this tumour than did teetotalers. It is only when the worker became a heavy drinker that alcohol became a factor.

Although tobacco is the most dangerous substance to take with alcohol, other circumstances can also precipitate malignant changes in the mouth, throat or upper-intestinal tract in heavy drinkers. Drinking, if it is associated with malnutrition, is known to be hazardous and there is an increased incidence in these cancers in under-nourished heavy drinkers.

A recent study published in the *Japanese Journal of Clinical Oncology* reported that in Japan the life-threatening combination was alcohol and hot drinks. The North Country habit of drinking tea which is so hot that it burns the throat has always been recognised as a potential risk. Anecdotal evidence has always existed that showed that in those who are able to swallow hot drinks without finching, a tumour is liable to grow at a slightly higher level than it would in those whose dietary mistake is to combine alcohol and tobacco.



Barry Porter: victim of political environment



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Trouble daugh damage

CORRECTION

BUSH

'Student' buys mortar as firework confusion reigns

By ADRIAN LEE
AND DAMIAN WHITWORTH

MORTAR-STYLE fireworks, similar to the one which killed a City trader at the weekend, were still openly on sale to the public yesterday amid confusion over safety laws.

A Times reporter, posing as a student, bought one device for £25, with a £10 cardboard firing tube, from a shop in east London. The Chinese-made firework was clearly stamped "for professional use only". An advertisement claims it soars 300ft into the air and detonates with an explosion covering a quarter of an acre.

One expert from the Institute of Trading Standards Administration said it was illegal to sell the firework, called a Half and Half Chrysanthemum, to members of the public without checking that they were competent to explode it. However, legislation is so confusing that another trading standards officer said he believed the shop had done nothing illegal but should have given clearer instructions.

The weekend deaths of Steve Timcke, 34, a City trader, from Dartford, Kent, and David Hattersley, 45, a head teacher, of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, have prompted calls for mortar-

The cost of fireworks and safety fears are expected to prompt people to attend organised displays rather than hold private parties tonight. Many councils have decided to make events free. Leeds City Council estimates that up to 40,000 will visit Roundhay Park for a half-hour display to the strains of film themes, hit musicals and popular classics. Other big displays around the country include:

Birmingham: Type Hayes Park Bonfire from 6.30pm, fireworks at 7pm and 9pm. £3 adults, £1.50 children.

Carlisle: Blits Park, Carlisle. Bonfire lit at 7pm. Fireworks on castle battlements from 7.15pm. Free.

Chesterfield: Stand Road Recreation Ground, Stand Road, Whittington Moor. Fireworks from 7.30pm. Free.

Edinburgh: Meadowbank Sports Centre. Doors open 6pm. Fireworks at 7pm. Tickets £1.50/£1.

Glasgow: Glasgow Green. Fireworks 6.30 to 8.30pm. Free.

Leeds: Wadsworth Park, Old Bedford Road. Gates open 6.30pm, fireworks from 7.30pm. £2.50.

Liverpool: Sefton Park, Albert Dock and Walton Hall Park. Will all have fireworks at 8pm. Free.

Manchester: Heaton Park, bonfire 7 to 10pm, fireworks from 8pm. Free. Wythenshawe Park, bonfire 7.30pm, fireworks from 8pm. Free.

Suffolk: Islington Suffolk Site, Thornham Magna. Bonfire and barbeque 6pm, fireworks 7pm. £1.50; £1 children.

Warrington: Victoria Park, Knutsford Road, Warrington. Bonfire 7.30pm, fireworks 8pm. £2 adults, £1 children.

style fireworks to be banned and safety laws tightened.

Campaigners claim that a relaxation of trade barriers three years ago led to an influx of dangerous foreign fireworks and helped to cause a sharp leap in injuries. The Government said that the

change was in name only, replacing a firework licence with an import authority, but has promised to review legislation.

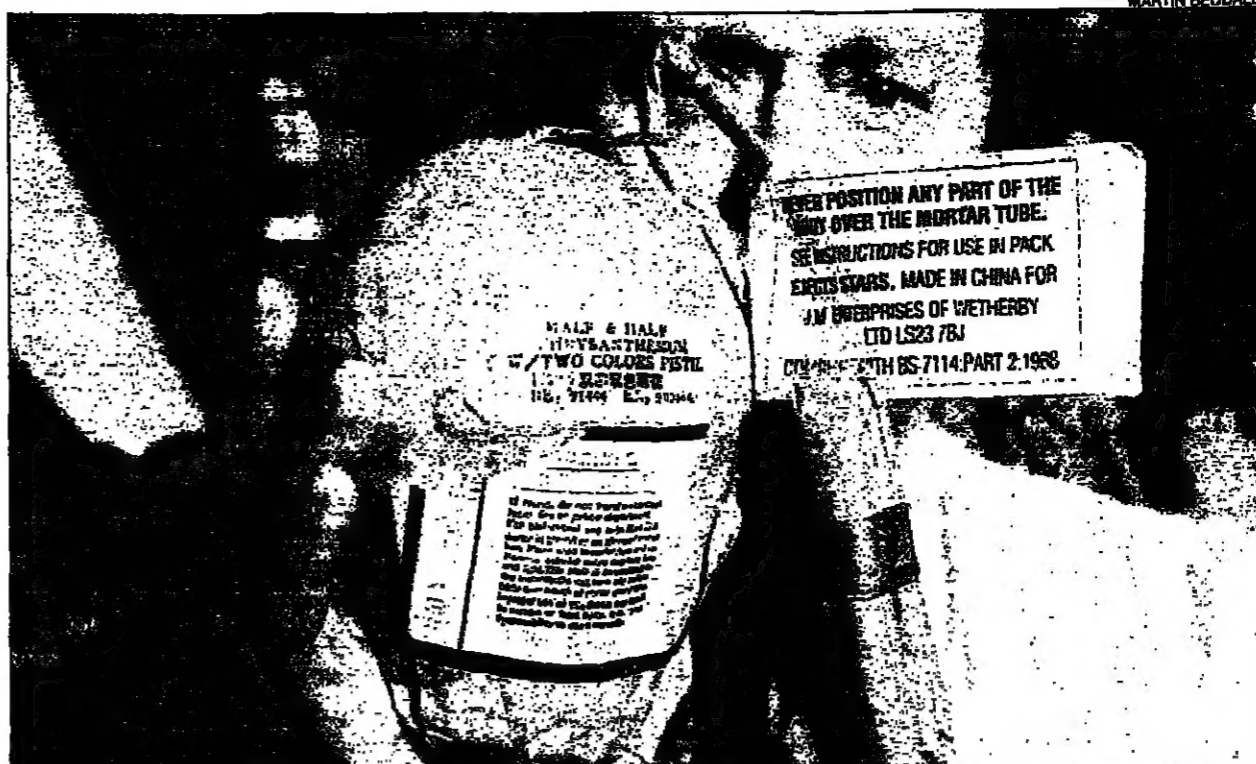
The firework was bought by The Times from Big Bang Fireworks, in Bethnal Green Road. Until recently the shop

was an estate agency, but it is being rented for a few weeks to take advantage of the seasonal firework trade with a £10.20 registration purchased from the local authority, Tower Hamlets.

A saleswoman in the shop sold the firework, offering a discount for two. She did not check whether the buyer was a fireworks expert or whether the planned display would be properly organised or in a back garden. She did point out that it should not be detonated in a small area. It carried a label stating that it complied with British Standards and a warning that it could cause fatal injuries, that spectators should be at least 25 metres away and that it should be fired from the 125mm tube.

The assistant said that the tube should be carefully buried. "One guy who bought one blew up his shed by accident," she said.

The British Standards Institution, which classifies fireworks, said any device marked for professional use only should not be sold to the public. Dave Roderick, a spokesman for the Institute of Trading Standards, said: "That's an offence, you shouldn't have been sold that. We would have expected them to ask reasonable questions and perhaps ask for some



For professional use only: yet this mortar-style firework was sold over the counter with no questions asked

reasonable proof that you were competent. You can see why people get their heads blown off."

John Finch, a consumer services officer at Tower Hamlets council, said: "I would certainly like to see fireworks

like this banned. They are outrageous." He believed the shop was within its rights to sell the firework because it was clearly labelled in English. Nathan Gates, who works at the shop, said: "As we understand it, we are doing

nothing illegal. We have sold quite a few. The mark-up is very good." J.M. Enterprises, of Wetherby, West Yorkshire, which imported the firework, insisted it was suitable for public sale but Nigel Jackson,

the joint managing director, added: "After the two tragedies over the weekend, we had a board meeting and we will not be importing the shells in 1997 for use by anyone."

Libby Purves, page 20



Gabrielle Harvey-Jones with Sir John yesterday

Troubleshooter's daughter wins damages over fall

By BILL FROST

SIR John Harvey-Jones, the former chairman of ICI, last night launched a bitter attack on a restaurant owned by the Queen's nephew Lord Linley where his disabled daughter suffered a fall that had "ruined" her life.

He claimed that staff at Deals in Chelsea Harbour, southwest London, had shown neither compassion nor concern after the accident. Their behaviour towards his daughter Gabrielle, who contracted polio at the age of four, had been "monstrous", he added.

His comments came as Miss Harvey-Jones, 45, won undisclosed damages after a six-year legal battle over the fall at Viscount Linley's restaurant. Having gone there in November 1990 for lunch with two friends, she fell and broke her leg, a hearing at Central London County Court was told. She claimed to have slipped on a wet patch of floor.

After the fall she was given a glass of water and asked to move from the floor "because it was putting off" the other diners. Her calliper had broken her left leg in two places and she needed a metal plate inserted at the Charing Cross Hospital. She needed further treatment later. Accompanied

by her father, who employed her as his secretary at the time, she said outside court: "It was an appalling experience," she said. "I am relieved it's over. It's taken an unbelievably long time."

Sir John said: "Not at any time have Deals shown the slightest sign of compassion or concern except to give her a glass of water when she was on the floor. The fact they requested to move her when she was on the floor was monstrous. Her life has been ruined but there has been no message from Deals, no telephone calls, no contact of any sort to this day. Surely you can show compassion without admitting liability? I would be ashamed to have any dealings with Deals."

Miss Harvey-Jones, from Ross-on-Wye, Hereford and Worcester, said: "It's changed my life in every conceivable way. I don't think it will be the same again. The manageress asked if I could be moved because I was inconveniencing them. I was putting off the other diners. I had a very high-powered job which I enjoyed. That's now finished. I had polio when I was a child but I was very mobile and independent until the accident."

Jonathan Marks, representing Miss Harvey-Jones, told the court that a settlement had been reached and Neil Block, representing the restaurant owners, Lachmead Ltd, confirmed the agreement.

John Smith, for the Lachmead Group, said: "We are unable to comment on the settlement, or the events leading up to it, as they are subject to a confidentiality agreement."

CONFIDENTIALITY

Although saddened by the death of Jack Tinker (Obituary, October 29), Princess Margaret wishes to point out that, while she met him on a number of occasions, he never acted as her "walker".

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Ambitious electronic conspiracy could have added up to the biggest bank raid in history

How gang planned to tap into 30 million accounts

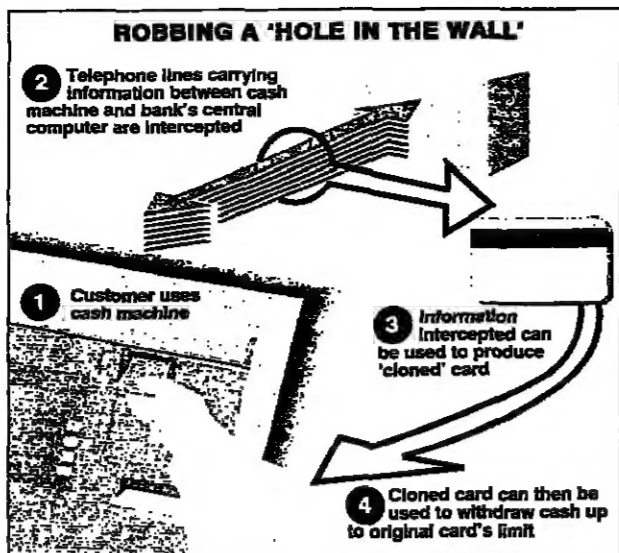
By Robert Miller

THE conviction of seven conspirators at London's Southwark Crown Court yesterday on charges of attempting to milk hundreds of millions of pounds from the international banking system put paid to what could have been the biggest-ever electronic scam.

The multimillion-pound con, alleged to have been devised by Kenneth Noye, who was not in court, was simple. With the help of corrupt British Telecom employees, the plastic card fraudsters would tap into the telephone lines that link the national networks of 21,000 Automated Telling Machines — or cash machines — to the mainframe computers at the bank or building society's headquarters. Between them, these computers contain all the relevant details of the estimated 30 million personal accounts held in this country.

The gang of seven would use other electronic devices, including computer hardware and software, to decipher or de-encrypt the information. These vital details on personal accounts were then to be downloaded on to bogus plastic cards.

It is understood that when officers from the cheque and credit card squad of the Metropolitan Police, assisted by the fraud division of the Association for Payment Clearing



Services, the trade body for plastic card issuers, raided premises in July last year, they found 30,000 "white" or blank cards, ready for use, plus a further 3,000 which had some details on already.

Once the fraudsters had downloaded the personal details onto the cards they would have used these to withdraw cash from machines around the country. Investigators point out that plastic card fraudsters generally prefer the cash machines at non-bank locations, where the possibility of security cameras or other devices is less likely.

Inquiries by *The Times*.

however, have established that the seven conspirators were in fact themselves victims of other fraudsters. The equipment seized by the police in raids was not sophisticated enough to decipher much of the information captured over the telephone lines. Worse still, they did not have the correct PIN, or personal identity numbers, needed to gain access to individual accounts in the first place.

Banks and building societies tend to be reticent about plastic-card fraud on machines for fear of causing concern about the security of such systems and emphasise

that people can be the victims of so-called "phantom withdrawals". The Bank of England uses outside accountancy firms to conduct special investigations under Section 39 of the Banking Act into computer systems and security.

The convictions at Southwark Crown Court yesterday ended what is thought to be the most ambitious attempt yet to use bogus plastic to steal money from the electronic banking system. Last year fraudsters struck at banks and building societies, including the Halifax, for a second time. In that case, the common used camcorders to film unsuspecting customers using cash machines. One long-lens camera, usually placed in a building opposite the cash machine, filmed the front of the card while the other zoomed in on the vital PIN number being tapped in.

When blown up on a large screen the details were easy to distinguish and these were transferred to the magnetic strip of the bogus card, which was used to plunder the account. Since then, however, extra security chips are being included in plastic cards, making it much harder to carry out such a scam.

It was these extra security devices that doomed to failure the potential fraud exposed in court yesterday. It also led to the common becoming victims themselves.



Kenneth Noye and his wife Brenda. He is believed to be hiding in southern Spain

The man who disappeared after the murder of Stephen Cameron

KENNETH NOYE'S photographs have been filed under the wanted list in every police station in Britain because he is a key suspect for the "road rage" murder of Stephen Cameron on the M25 in May. Noye is still on the run. The latest revelations of links to the cash card gang come as many officers and the underworld believe Noye, 49, is safely hidden by criminal contacts in southern Spain. Noye disappeared from Brit-

ain within a day of the murder of Mr Cameron, who was stabbed when he got out of his car to argue with the driver of a Land Rover Discovery. Noye has been linked to a similar car which was registered in the name of an alias he used for the home of a mistress. Noye was also an informer for Scotland Yard. In 1984 he was arrested for the murder of John Fordham, a Yard undercover officer who was keeping him

under surveillance after the £26 million Brink's-Mat bullion robbery. Fordham was stabbed by Noye after the policeman was found hiding in the garden of Noye's country home at West Kingsdown, Kent. Noye was acquitted after pleading self defence and later convicted for his part in the laundering of gold from the robbery. He was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment, and was released two years ago.

Card plot team was Who's Who of London villainy

By Stewart Tendler

THE cash card conspiracy brought together some of the biggest names in south London villainy, stretching back through the £26 million Brink's-Mat robbery to the Richardson gang in the 1960s. John Lloyd, 57, nicknamed "Little Legs", has long been a major underworld figure. Suspected by Scotland Yard of being involved in handling cash from the Brink's-Mat robbery in 1983, he fled to Florida. He also spent part of his time in east London, despite a £10,000 reward for his capture. His common law wife Jean Savage, who lived in a house bought from Noye, was convicted of moving £2.5 million into bank accounts and jailed for five years.

In 1994 Lloyd came back to Britain and Savage. He gave himself up and the Crown Prosecution Service decided not to charge him. After making a settlement with the insurers he appeared to be living quietly back in West Kingsdown, Kent, not far from Kenneth Noye's old home, hiring out used cars and vans. Once again Lloyd could not resist temptation and called in close family. Another of the gang, Stephen Seton, from Chislehurst, London, is married to one of Lloyd's daughters and John Maguire, 36, from Mottingham, southeast London, is a friend of Seton.

Billy Hayward comes from the south London generation before Lloyd and Noye. In 1966 he was jailed for eight years after a gang fight at the Mr Smith club in Catford, south London with the Richardsons and their lieutenant Mad Frankie Fraser. Hayward and his brother "Flash Harry", heads of a second league gang seeking promotion, tried to take over the club and the ensuing fight ended with one man dead. In recent years Hayward has been living at a farm in Yalding, Kent. The other gang members are Paul Kidd, 36, from Meopham, Kent; Graham Moore, 32, Erith, London, and Stephen Moore, 41, of Leytonstone, east London.



John Lloyd: known as "Little Legs" in gangland

Supergrass may spend life under police protection

By Stewart Tendler

MARTIN GRANT, the gang's electrical expert, could spend the rest of his life under police protection after telling detectives about the plot.

Grant was approached by the gang and recruited while serving a 16-year sentence in Brixton open prison, Kent, for trying to kill his wife and baby son. But he confessed to the prison chaplain and gave police a 300-page statement.

An electrician by trade, Grant was first jailed in 1988. Annoyed that he had been passed over for promotion, he had tried to sabotage the water supply at Brixton, Essex, where he worked.

Out of prison after a nine-month sentence, he fell for a 25-year-old fire brigade controller. They became lovers and Grant decided to get rid of his wife, Debbie, and his baby son, Lewis. He started by trying to booby-trap the family home and set fire to a sofa that he hoped would cause fumes to suffocate his family.

His wife smelt burning and escaped. When that failed he deliberately drove into a telephone pole in a quiet road. He ostensibly went off to look for help but doubled back and set fire to the car. His family were saved by a passer-by.

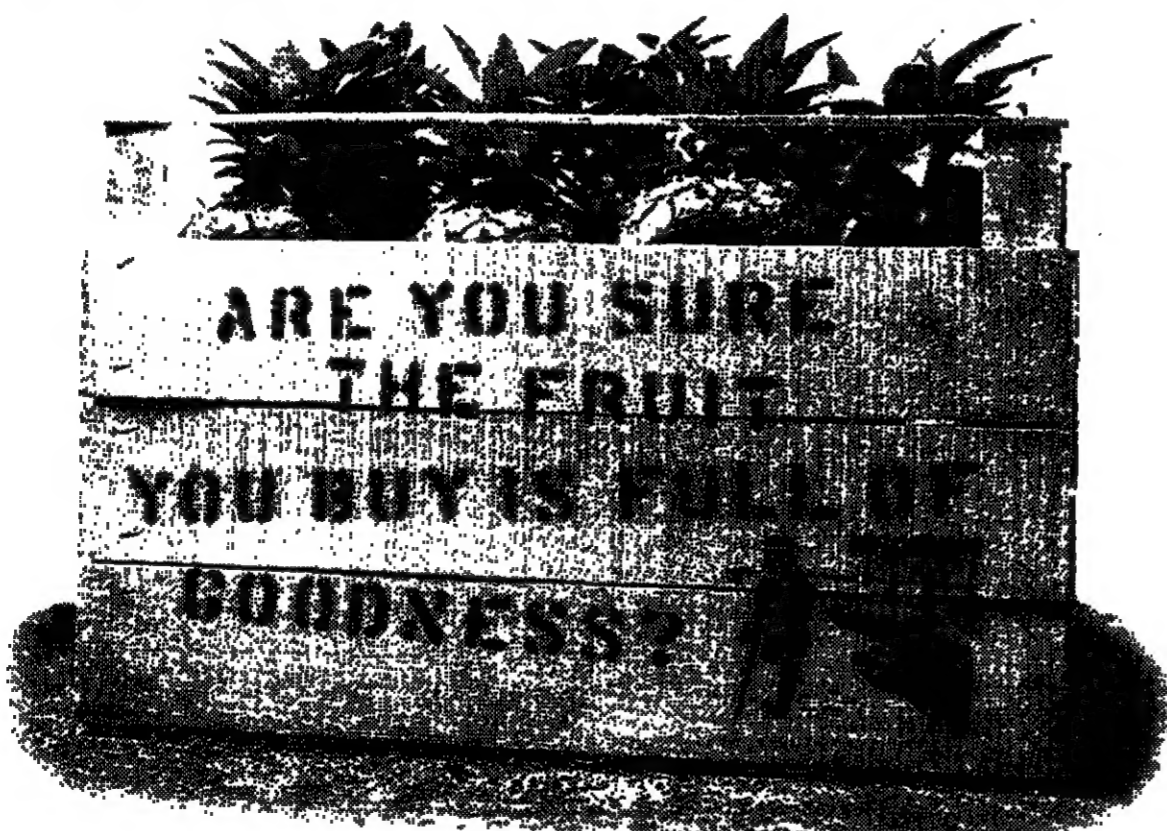
At his trial, Grant begged

his wife for forgiveness but she said she would never let him meet his son, while Lewis remained a minor.

In prison, he studied for a degree in electronic communications and digital and logic design. He met one of the gang on a day-release scheme to a garage in Kent. Grant had the technical skill they would need.

Now he faces years on the run like Anthony Black, the security guard in the Brink's-Mat robbery who named the robbers and has been in hiding for 13 years. Grant will have his identity changed and given help to find a new home and profession. Eventually he may even go abroad, linked to his murders by a secret telephone number.

Although few informants have ever been reached by the underworld, the Yard takes no chances. A dedicated unit provides all the back-up to take a criminal out of range and keep him protected. The unit, based within the serious crime branch, has contacts with other countries to make moves go smoother, but sometimes the criminals find it difficult to adjust. Some "supergrasses" have returned eventually to their old haunts — and survived.



"I saw an accident when a friend fell from the truck taking us to the plantation. The tyre ran over his leg and he was sent to the company dispensary. They amputated his leg. He got no compensation and had to buy a plastic leg with his own money. The man has not worked since the accident." PINEAPPLE PLANTATION WORKER, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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Proposals for minimum sentences 'enable judges to deal justly with particular cases'

Mackay has change of heart over Crime Bill

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for tougher sentencing have won the crucial backing of the Lord Chancellor as they start their passage through Parliament. In a change of view, Lord Mackay of Clashfern says the Home Secretary's proposals on minimum sentences are now framed so as to meet the concerns of judges.

Lord Mackay, who had balked at the idea of minimum sentences, said in an interview with *The Times* that the Crime (Sentences) Bill would enable judges to "deal justly with particular cases". He also came out in favour of legislation to allow the first scrutiny of the secret workings of juries and pledged further reforms to cut needless waste in the £1.4 billion legal aid bill.

On the Crime Bill, Lord Mackay said: "My view is that it's satisfactory, certainly."

He added: "I do think that many of their concerns will have been met."

However, the judges, who have condemned the proposals, do not appear to have been appeased by the wording of the Bill.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, is expected to make his opposition clear on *Breakfast With Frost* on BBC1 on Sunday. His views on the Crime Bill, and in particular the proposal for minimum sentences for repeat burglars and drug dealers, are expected to provide the main topic of his interview.

The Bill would allow judges to depart from imposing a minimum sentence in "exceptional circumstances". Lord Mackay said he had ensured that this phrase was included so judges could escape what they saw as a restriction on their ability to match punishment and crime.

"I expressed the view that one needed to consider that and the Home Secretary obviously did have that under consideration and this is the result of it," he said. "I think it enables them to deal justly with particular cases, while at the same time giving very clear warning to anyone who's contemplating a crime of this kind what the result will be, unless there are exceptional circumstances."

However, one judicial source said: "The courts have always construed the meaning of 'exceptional circumstances' very strictly. There are many cases which would not be viewed as 'exceptional circumstances' but where judges would wish to give less than the minimum sentence."

The Bill, which began its passage yesterday, is expected to go through on a large majority in the Commons after Labour decided not to oppose it. In the Lords, however, Lord Bingham will lead an onslaught by a string of senior judges.

Lord Mackay said he was also seeking legislation to lift the ban on the secrets of the jury room in the light of backing from Lord Bingham. Any such move was strongly opposed by Lord Taylor of Gosforth, his predecessor as Lord Chief Justice who recently retired through ill health.



Lord Mackay pictured at his office in the House of Lords by Chris Harris. He admitted he had been behind some of the wording in the Bill

Architect's family wins death case

The family of the architect Sir James Stirling, 68, have agreed undisclosed damages over his death following a hernia operation at the Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth, northwest London. Adrian Whitfield, QC, for the family, said liability for alleged negligence by the anaesthetist Dr Peter Hardwick was no longer contested. Sir James's work included the Cambridge history faculty library and the Tate's Clore Gallery.

Mortar charge

A 53-year-old man appeared in court charged with conspiring to cause the IRA mortar attacks on Heathrow in 1994. Michael Anthony Gallagher was remanded in custody until November 12 at Belmarsh Magistrates' Court, southeast London.

Keeper convicted

Andy Goram, the Scotland goalkeeper, was banned from driving for 18 months and fined £1,000 after being convicted of drink-driving. Goram, 32, who pleaded guilty, is the third Rangers international player to be convicted of drink-driving this year.

War boat saved

A boat that rescued 1,000 British troops from the Dunkirk beaches in 1940 has been saved from a Guy Fawkes bonfire in the Isles of Scilly. The *Silt Southern Queen* has been donated to the Dunkirk Association which is to seek lottery funds to restore it.

Singer on street

The singer George Michael is giving his first interview in six years — to *The Big Issue*, the magazine sold to help the homeless. Michael has refused to give any publicity interviews for years. The edition containing the interview goes on sale on Monday.

Driving school

A college has set up its own motorway academy to get sixth-formers through their driving tests. A qualified driving instructor takes practical and theory sessions at Richard Huish College, Taunton, Somerset, during free classroom periods.

Islanders back self-government poll

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST three out of four Isle of Wight residents want a referendum on self-government, according to a MORI opinion poll published yesterday. The survey also shows a clear majority opposed to building a bridge or tunnel to join the island to the mainland.

Morris Barton, leader of the Liberal Democrat-controlled council, said: "This shows people here are fed up with the way they have been ignored by central government and want the right to make decisions affecting their lives."

The council will press for the referendum and will take the Government to the European Court if it refuses to hold one.

"All candidates in the general election will be asked to make clear where they stand on the issue so that voters will know which of them will be prepared to fight for them," Mr Barton said. "Labour are supposed to be in favour of devolution, so if they win we will hold them to it."

The poll shows 73 per cent in favour of a referendum and 22 per cent against; 44 per cent want island government to remain the same compared with 38 per cent who want self-government. Those opposed to change were mostly pensioners, while 60 per cent of those aged under 54 want more autonomy.

Over 40 per cent of people under 28 on

the island are unemployed and they are the people who feel most strongly about this," Mr Barton said. "We have the highest unemployment in the South East and one of the lowest GDPs in Britain."

The EU told us that we would automatically qualify for assisted-area status but because our Government lumps us in regionally with the prosperous South East, we get nothing. The result is that we have a haemorrhage of young people from the island and we are left with an ageing population."

The MORI poll questioned 790 residents aged over 18, chosen as representative of the 125,000 population.

Motorist banned for catching up with paperwork in the fast lane

A MOTORIST seen reading a book while driving at 70mph in the fast lane of a motorway escaped with a three-month ban at Cardiff Crown Court yesterday after the judge ruled that he must have been trying to catch up with his paperwork (Russell Jenkins writes).

Gary Roberts, 25, a contract cleaning company executive, of Crosskeys, Gwent, was driving erratically at speeds of up to 70mph along the M4 while reading what

appeared to be a paperback novel, the court was told.

He was arrested after an off-duty police officer saw him propping the book on the steering wheel and followed his car for 20 miles in the fast lane. Roberts, who says he cannot remember the incident, admitted a charge of dangerous driving. Judge Curran said he accepted that Roberts was not reading a novel and banned him from driving for three months, fined him £250 with £400

costs. He was also ordered to retake his driving test.

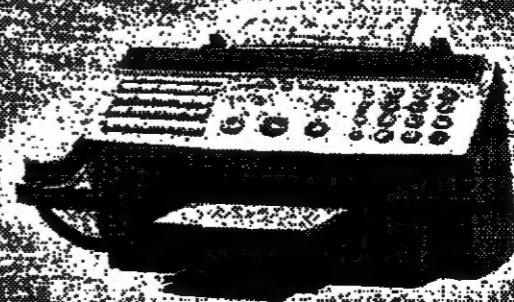
He told Roberts: "Modern working life means many people catch up on work and I believe you were trying to catch up on paperwork."

Roberts said afterwards: "I never dreamt there was a policeman following me. I thought I was the victim of road rage. The car behind me was flashing his lights and driving very close so I just carried on going. It could have been any lunatic."

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Don with mistaken list of honours goes on extended leave

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE controversial head of a university college has taken leave of absence after a series of discrepancies in his academic qualifications came to light.

When senior officials at Durham University met this morning to discuss the issue they will be told that the Rev Dr Duane Wade-Hampton Arnold, Principal of St Chad's College at Durham, is taking three months' leave.

Dr Arnold, 43, declined to comment yesterday when asked if he would return to the principal's lodge in the shadow of Durham Cathedral when his leave was completed. His wife Janet, who was appointed the university's part-time director of development at the same time as Dr Arnold took up his post in 1994, is also taking three months' leave.

Dr Arnold, who earns £40,000 a year, will remain on full pay, as will his wife, who is paid £20,000 for her three-



Dr Arnold: going on leave with wife

day-a-week job. The American-born principal said last night: "I can confirm I am taking leave of absence. I am not quite sure just yet exactly what I shall be doing, but I have a number of projects to consider. I shall be doing what I always do, reading and writing. I shall be out and about, in Durham and elsewhere, I

am not sure if I will be going to the United States. My wife will be with me, we usually do things together."

Last month Dr Arnold admitted that a series of academic qualifications in the 1996 Who's Who and at least one ecclesiastical directory were misleading. He blamed errors by staff on the journals who had interpreted his honours as similar-sounding, but more prestigious awards.

The university is also checking details given by him for his application to the Department on Education and Employment for a work permit, although it says Dr Arnold is more than qualified.

Last night academics within the university declined to comment until after the council meeting, but Dr Vernon Armitage, Principal of St Hild and St Bede College, said: "I am very concerned for the future of St Chad's. When new articles for its government are drawn up they should be associated with the appointment of a new principal."



Guy Newman and his wife Faith outside their prize-winning village store in Somerset, which was founded by a veteran of the Crimean War

Happier days in store for the village shop

By MICHAEL PRESTAGE

THE village shop is at last winning the battle against cut-price competition from superstores. Research shows that, after two decades, the decline has abated as an emphasis on personal service and a more business-like approach give village shops an edge.

The recovery is charted in records of shop numbers kept by Wiltshire County Council and a recent study of the county by the Rural Development Commission. In the Queen's Speech

last month the importance of the village shop was recognised by the Government, with its Rural Communities Bill to allow rates to be cut by up to 50 per cent. Up to 6,000 village stores could benefit.

Andy Conn, a senior planning officer with the council, welcomed the revival, saying the stores were very important for villages. "It marks a recovery in confidence and perhaps a determination on the part of the shop-owners who remain to succeed." He said the less well-run shops had succumbed to the pressures of recession and competition, while those that survived had owners with entrepreneurial zeal. Shops now offered items such as videos and had in-store bakeries. "Once, running the village store was seen as a sort of semi-retirement job. Now, people are coming into the business knowing it is going to be hard work to make it succeed."

Tony Foss, a retail consultant working for the commission, said: "I have studied 150 village shops and life is still difficult for them, but there is a feeling that the worst is over. The shops that have survived will continue to flourish."

Churchinford village store, in Somerset, does not look much changed from the picture hanging on the wall, circa 1904. But the range of goods — everything from diesel fuel and fruit and veg to newspapers and wellington boots — is vastly different. Martin Newman gave up his job as operations manager of an engineering company to run the store with his wife Faith. It serves a four-mile radius and won a Best Village Shop in Somerset competition in 1994.

Doctors say new drugs successful in fighting Aids

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

NEW drug therapies against the Aids virus HIV are transforming the lives of many patients, dramatically reducing risks of blindness and cancer, doctors reported yesterday.

"Since we started these therapies we have seen a complete transformation," Dr Peter Ruane, an Aids specialist from Los Angeles, told a news conference at the International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV Infection at Birmingham Convention Centre.

A new class of drugs, called nucleoside inhibitors, used in combination with established treatments such as AZT or ddC as part of a cocktail of drugs, can reduce the amount of HIV below levels of detectability. Though not cured, many patients have found that their condition is enormously improved.

Two striking findings announced by Dr Ruane yesterday are reductions in opportunistic infections such as those caused by cytomegalovirus (CMV), which can lead to blindness in people who are HIV-positive. Dr Ruane said: "We're just not seeing any new CMV disease. It is extraordinary."

He also said a common

cancer that affected Aids patients was spontaneously disappearing. "Patients with Kaposi's sarcoma who were normally referred for radiation therapy or chemotherapy were watching the lesions actually disappear."

The reason, he said, was that the patient's own immune systems seemed to be fighting off the diseases.

Aids activists urged that the new drugs should be made available to all British patients as soon as possible. They fear that restricted drug budgets in the NHS may prevent the drugs being as widely prescribed as their effects warrant.

Older drugs such as AZT can kill HIV but mutant forms that are resistant survive and multiply rapidly. Dr Charles Farthing, medical director of the Aids Healthcare Foundation in Los Angeles, said two drugs at once had better effects, and with three "the virus drops down and then, instead of coming back it drops down further and further".

He added: "If you hit it hard with multiple drugs, you can drive it down until it is not reproducing and then it cannot become resistant."

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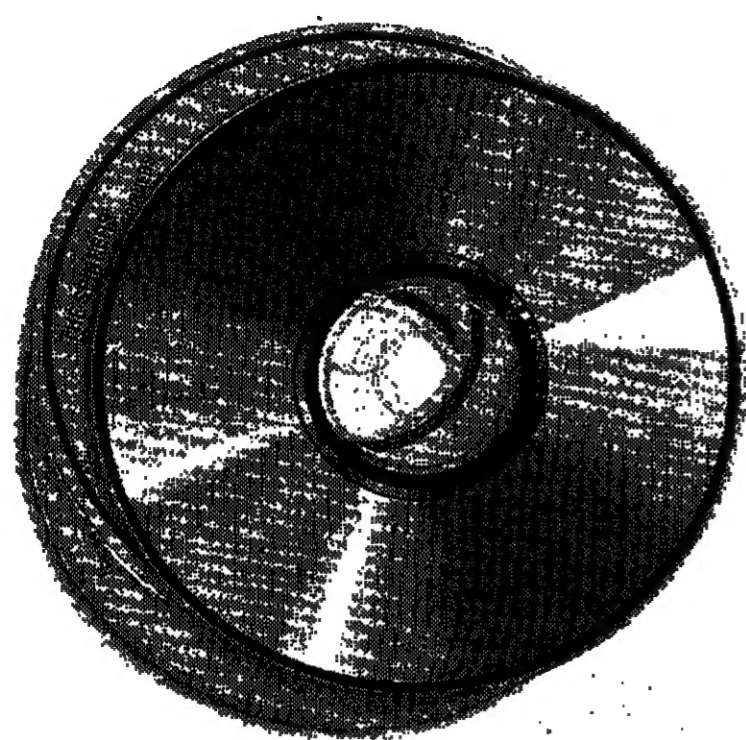
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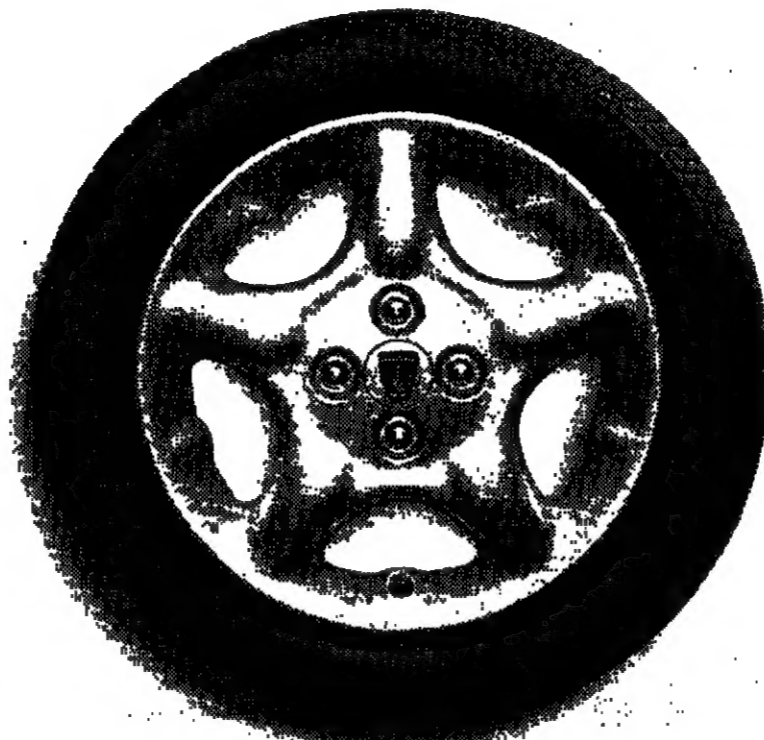
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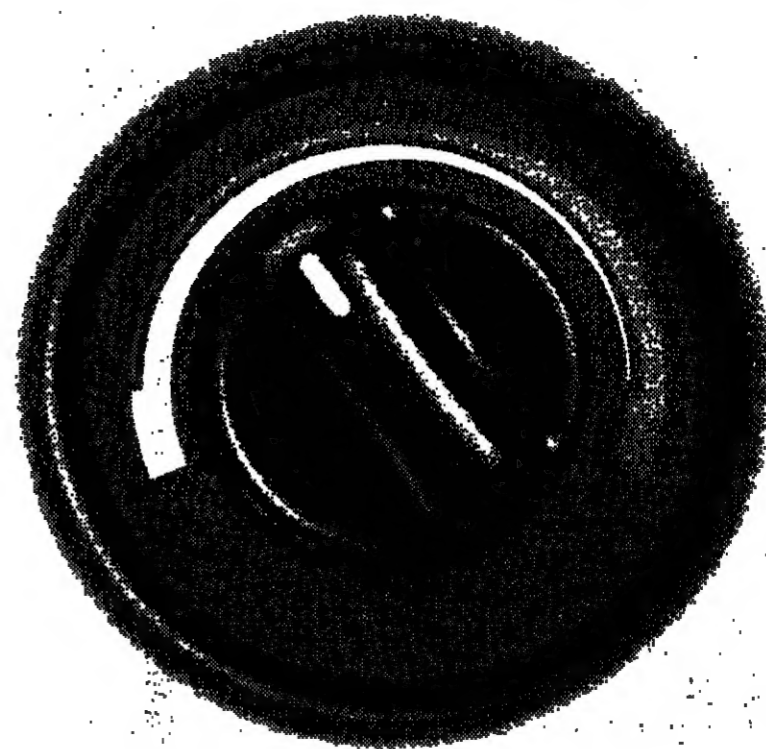
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Sale of archive that reveals the passion of writer's affair with the muse of Dr Zhivago

Lyrical letters shed light on Pasternak's love for his Lara

Fortune in a bottle turns up at seaside

By JOHN SHAW

By DAIXA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

LYRICAL letters written by Boris Pasternak to the woman who inspired his *Doctor Zhivago* are among an important archive which is to be sold later this month for an estimated £500,000.

Pasternak once wrote of Olga Ivinskaya: "She is the Lara [Zhivago's lover] in my book." The archive, which remained with her after his death, is described as the largest and most important Pasternak collection to come to auction.

They offer an insight into the private and professional life of one of Russia's most revered literary figures. His affair with Olga began in 1946 and continued until his death in 1960: he consulted her on everything, "literary and otherwise," said Christie's, which is selling the archive.

As well as important literary manuscripts, including original drafts for his last poetic cycle *When the Skies*



Julie Christie and Omar Sharif in the 1965 film of *Dr Zhivago*. The book caused a scandal in Russia

Clear, and autobiographical notes on the period of terror during the Russian Revolution, there are 22 letters to Olga. Christie's said: "All are written in Pasternak's distinctive flowing hand and, although it is virtually impossible to translate the terms of endearment into English, the heartfelt and deeply lyrical nature of the letters is very moving." Pasternak scholars have long seen this

archive as vital reference material.

Olga, who died only last year, held the material until her arrest three months after Pasternak's death. It was then confiscated, although part was returned. She was forced to sell some of the items, to the Museum of Literature in Ybills, but kept the papers that she regarded as her most precious and personal. One letter, expected to fetch about £30,000,

was written some weeks before his death, aged 70, in 1960 from heart failure. In it he implores Olga not to worry but to be patient for the day when he is well again. He ends with the words: "I hug you closely and beg you to calm down."

The story of *Dr Zhivago*—a novel of the Russian Revolution filmed in 1965 with Omar Sharif and Julie Christie—parallels the love story of Pasternak and Olga, including the persecution that followed the publication of the novel. The author was awarded the Nobel prize for literature in 1958 but was forced by the Soviet regime to decline it. At the height of the scandal he writes, in a letter now expected to fetch £15,000, "I clearly understood for the first time that by involving you in all these terrible affairs I am casting a large shadow on you and putting you in awful danger. It's unmanly and contemptible. I love you and embrace you strongly. Forgive me."



Boris Pasternak and Olga Ivinskaya: he consulted her on everything

AN ELDERLY woman was overwhelmed when *The Antiques Roadshow* examined a 6½ in decorative bottle from her seaside home.

It was first valued at a pleasant £200 as just an ornament by one expert, David Battie. Then Paul Atterbury, a specialist in the decorative arts, had a look and gave his price: about £30,000.

Yesterday the woman from Skegness, Lincolnshire, was considering police advice on home security as Mr Atterbury explained: "The bottle is by William Burges, one of the most important Victorian designers. Skegness was the last place one would have expected to see such a piece."

The Victoria and Albert Museum has photographs of Burges's Kensington home showing the Batavian bottle, with a silver spider's web pattern and enamel, pearl and moonstone details. An inscription on the base gives his name and the date 1868. The owner knew only that her father bought it in the 1950s.

Soldier's diary recalls slaughter of the Dervishes

By ALAN HAMILTON

A FIRSTHAND account of Lord Kitchener's defeat of the Dervishes at the Battle of Omdurman in 1898 has surfaced after lying unseen for almost a century. It is expected to fetch £3,000 at auction in London later this month.

Lieutenant Alfred Edward Hubbard of the 10th Lincolnshire Regiment kept a diary of the Sudan campaign in a green notebook, right up to the final battle which avenged the death of General Gordon at Khartoum in 1885.

Hubbard's penultimate count, written for his wife, Mabel, describes the moment at dawn when Kitchener's troops caught their first glimpse of the enemy. "Against the far range of hills, about three miles off, could be seen lines of high banners it looked as if the entire world was coming on against us."

Hubbard estimated the advancing front to be more than three miles wide. "As they came on there was a murmur like the sound of the sea which was, I presume, their battle cry. When the Dervishes got to within about 1,800 yards of our line, the first gun on our side spoke. We could hear the heavy shell cleaving its way through the

air — then came a puff of white smoke above the enemy's heads as the shell burst in air and let loose its bullets among them. It is difficult to describe the next half hour — we could see men advancing from everywhere ... The ground began to get dotted with white-clad corpses."

The Dervish riflemen began to fire before they were within range, "but soon, as they crept up, the well-remembered sounds began — the faint whistle of bullets. Two or three men of my regiment were quickly down."

Hubbard had no doubt about the bravery of his enemy. "A small body (about 200 men) of horsemen with desperate gallantry endeavoured to charge the whole British brigade. It was a splendid sight and we all rather hoped that some would reach our bayonets, but they simply withered under the terrible fire of our rifles. I don't believe six of the whole lot got back again."

Hubbard, born in Benares, India, in 1862, retired with the rank of major in 1912. His diary passed to his daughter on his death in 1921 and is being offered for sale by his grandson.

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Blair confirms his party's support at cost of £500,000

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR won a convincing mandate for Labour's draft manifesto yesterday when party members endorsed the programme by a majority of 19 to one.

Frantic efforts over the past two weeks, including a telephone polling campaign, produced a much higher participation than expected, with 230,402 members, or 61 per cent of the party, voting. But some MPs criticised the leadership for spending £500,000 on the operation, including £250,000 on the ballot. They were privately angry about attempts to increase the turnout by setting up a freephone voting line costing £30,000.

The 61 per cent compares with 69 per cent in the Labour leadership poll when Mr Blair was elected, and 40 per cent for the Clause Four vote last year. The ballot of party members showed that 95 per cent of participants supported the draft manifesto, *New Labour: New Life for Britain*, with 5 per cent against.

The turnout was lower in the trade union section, where only one quarter of levy paying members voted, but they still backed the programme by 92.2 per cent to 7.8 per cent. Balloting among trade unions was optional and not all unions took part.

Mr Blair, announcing the findings at Labour's Millbank Tower media centre in London yesterday, said that the result showed "head and body marching together in step". The high turnout indicated widespread endorsement for

new Labour policy and party infighting should now halt. "I think it puts all the questions and all the arguments behind us," he said. "This is the party's covenant to the people. It is our mandate to stand as new Labour. What the people see is what they will get."

The document will form the basis for Labour's election manifesto but it contains no details on tax or spending. The main proposals include:
□ Cutting class sizes to 30 or under for five to seven-year-olds;
□ Fast-track punishment for persistent young offenders;
□ Cutting NHS waiting lists by treating an extra 100,000 patients;
□ Getting 250,000 under-25-year-olds off benefit and into work;
□ Setting tough rules for government spending and borrowing.

Mr Blair also added fresh



Blair: the people will get what they see

pledges including an end to waiting for surgery for those with cancer; a ban on all handguns and a ban on combat knives; reduced VAT on heating and a 10p tax starting rate. But more controversial issues, such as scrapping child benefit for the under-16s, were not detailed in the document.

Mr Blair promised that he would do all he could to bring forward a general election. Asked if he would force a vote of no confidence, he said: "I don't know if we can push them out before they jump. But if we possibly can, we will. In respect of parliamentary tactics we will pursue any tactics that are responsible."

Pressed later over his position on abortion he said that no sensible person was "in favour" of abortion. "The question is whether the criminal law is right to be the instrument that determines the decision of a woman in what can often be extremely painful and agonising circumstances. I support the present position in the law and always have. I think that is the sensible position to have."

Mr Blair, in an interview with BBC Radio 4's *World at One*, also insisted that there were no plans to raise the top rate of tax, pointing out that under the Tories many groups such as nursing sisters and teachers had been brought into the top rate of tax. But he reiterated Labour's position that it would wait until after the Budget before detailing its tax plans.



The result pleased Labour candidates, from left, Megan Harris, Candy Atherton, Shona McIsaac, Barbara Follett, Margaret Moran and Jessica Stevens

Caution may become a cause for regret

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Tony Blair has his mandate, but it may not be worth as much in the long term as he claimed yesterday. The decision to produce a mini-manifesto and put it to the vote in a membership ballot was a shrewd exercise in party management. But the four-month debate over *New Labour: New Life for Britain* never caught fire and the ballot was an anti-climax because Mr Blair played safe.

The strategy was simple — to demonstrate that the party as a whole, as well as the leadership, has changed to become "new" Labour and to commit the party to Mr Blair's strategy before the election. What has become known as "getting your betrayal in first" is intended to avoid the problems that bedevilled the Wilson and Callaghan governments when activists accused the leadership of breaking election pledges.

Mr Blair's belief that ordinary party members share his "new" Labour approach has been vindicated by the overwhelming support for the new

Clause Four and, now, with the approval of the mini-manifesto by a 19 to 1 margin among individual members and by almost as much among trade union members. The turnout was respectable rather than spectacular at 61 per cent, and was only that high thanks to a late phone blitz. Mr Blair has made his point, that the party's "head and body were together marching in step", if he becomes Prime Minister, he now has a defence against left-wing critics.

His line yesterday was "what the people see is what they will get". Up to a point, Mr Blair. The mini-manifesto shows that Labour has plenty of policies, though most are qualified. It epitomises Gordon Brown's determination to avoid anything that could be interpreted as a spending commitment. It is a sober discussion of the low-cost activism — the state as partner and regulator — now fashionable on the

Atlantic. Bill Clinton and Mr Blair echo each other in wanting to strengthen families and produce a workforce for the 21st century while not worrying financial markets. The problem is reconciling the desire to reassure with the promise of change.

These inner contradictions are summed up by the "early pledges" — cutting class sizes for five to seven-year-olds, fast-track punishment for young offenders, treating an extra 100,000 NHS patients and getting 250,000 under-25-year-olds off benefit. Many of these aims are desirable, even though the financing methods are open to question. But the key pledge is the fifth one — to set strict rules for spending and borrowing. This limits the scope for government action. Mr Brown argues that departments should find savings within existing budgets before seeking extra money. That seems sensible but it skates over the real spending pressures. For instance, Labour's early pledge on the

NHS looks trivial by comparison with Stephen Dorrell's tussle with the Treasury over increasing the health budget by £1 billion. Labour is not even promising to match any increases agreed by the Cabinet today, though it will probably do so.

The document dodges tricky areas such as the single currency, public-sector pay and welfare. No clues are given about how Labour would achieve its aim of spending more of the budget on education than on welfare. The reluctance of Labour strategists to take risks with voters, as opposed to the Labour Party, has reduced the long-term value of the mini-manifesto and of the ballot. Apart from constitutional reform, Mr Blair has won a mandate for gradualism, not radicalism. Given his commanding position in the party, he could have been bolder. He may look back on the ballot as partly a wasted opportunity.

PETER RIDDELL

Goldsmith condemns the EU as a 'black hole of despair'

By JAMES LANIUS, POLITICAL REPORTER

SIR JAMES GOLDSMITH launched another attack on the European Union yesterday and said that a vote for his Referendum Party would help to bring back power from Brussels.

His stringent criticism of the EU effectively confirmed that the party is concerned with

more than just securing a referendum on Britain's future in Europe. Speaking on an hour-long phone-in programme on Talk Radio, Sir James condemned the "unelected supercilious bureaucrats" of Europe, who he said wanted to deprive Britain and other nation states of their sovereignty and create a single European nation. "If you look within the

European Union at the moment it is a black hole of despair. I have never seen anything as bad as today. It is not only anger and fury but despair as well.

"If our Parliament can no longer run the economy for the benefit of its own people, can no longer control foreign policies, then what the hell are they doing there? They are getting privilege without re-

sponsibility and are just delegates of Brussels. A vote for the Referendum Party will bring back power from Brussels. A vote for the other parties is a vote for Brussels. Full stop."

He said that his party was ready to fight the election at any time. "We are getting all our work in place. Every day is precious to us. I would like the general election to be in

May. But if it is tomorrow we will be ready."

He repeated his pledge that the Referendum Party would dissolve once a fair vote on "who governs Britain" was offered to the British people. But he did not specify what the referendum question would be.

He emphasised that his family charitable foundation would sign a cheque for £20

million if it proved necessary. The cost so far of his enterprise, he said, was £1.5 million.

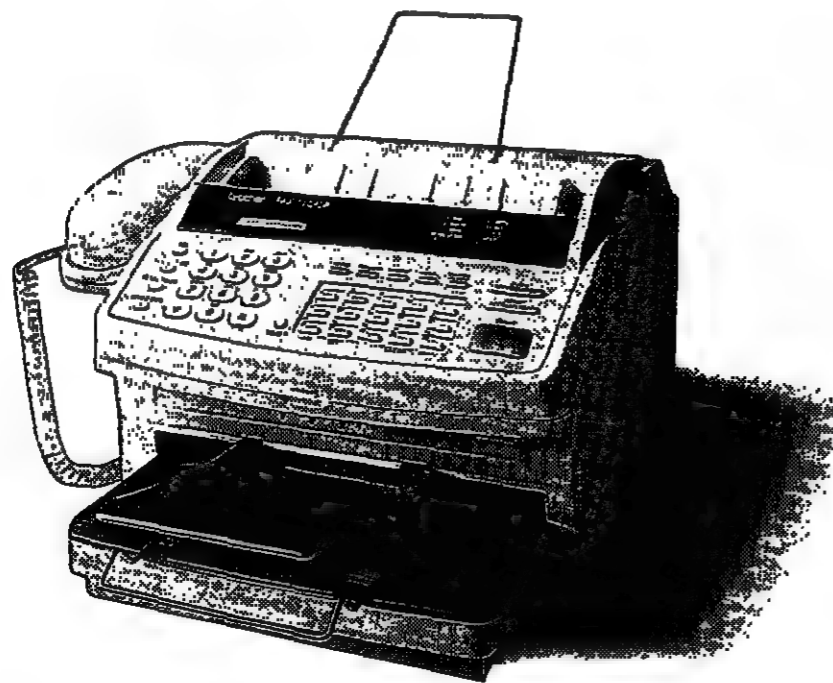
"My fear about Europe is that I do not believe you can merge 25 independent nations into one new nation run by unelected bureaucrats without any political control. The idea that we should be run as one country by unelected bureaucrats and basically be run by

Germany by virtue of its very size is unacceptable and will not work."

Sir James insisted that his party did not want power. "We shall dissolve our party as soon as a fair referendum on this issue has been offered to our people." He said that the party had appointed 250 prospective parliamentary candidates and had nearly 70,000 people working for it.



Goldsmith: radio guest



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	£20,000	194.07	215.80	265.19	352.73
11.4%	£17,500	179.68	196.03	240.27	319.79
	£15,000	154.01	169.74	205.95	275.54
	£10,000	102.67	113.16	137.30	177.03
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Israeli alert after warnings of attack by Islamic Jihad

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

SYRIA and Iran have been warned by Israel they will be "held responsible" if a feared mass terror attack is staged by the Islamic Jihad. The scare resulted in the Jewish state being placed on an unprecedented alert, with roadblocks clogging traffic and heavily armed security forces being rushed to patrol crowded civilian areas.

Israeli security sources said that the warnings had been passed via the Governments of the United States and Germany after the receipt of intelligence information that an Islamic Jihad squad had penetrated the country. The squad had orders to mount a spectacular attack to mark the first anniversary of the assassination of its leader.

Although Israel has never claimed the killing of Damascus-based Fathi Shuqai while travelling in disguise between Libya and Syria via Malta, diplomats have no doubt that he was shot dead by agents working for Mossad on October 26 last year.

Avigdor Kahalani, the Internal Security Minister, confirmed last night that the warning messages have been sent to those regarded as sponsors of Islamic Jihad, one of the groups responsible for suicide bombs earlier this year which killed more than 60 people.

There was diplomatic speculation that if the widely feared attack is not averted, Israel will take direct retaliation against Syrian or Iranian targets. Such is the uncommonly detailed nature of the information which Israel has received that the American Embassy issued a warning to all its citizens in Israel to

beware "of the increased likelihood" of terrorist attacks.

"The warnings are extremely specific and we cannot ignore the danger," said David Bar-Ilan, communications director in the office of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister. He was speaking in an atmosphere of near panic for many Israelis as buses travelled with only a few passengers, shopping streets were deserted and traffic stretched for miles at roadblocks. On Sunday the hour-long drive between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv was taking up to four hours.

"If it saves one child's life, the country can endure traffic jams for a few days," Mr Netanyahu told Cabinet ministers. "The safety of people's lives has priority over the quality of life and I am sure citizens can understand this."

Describing the mass search procedures, more extensive than anything seen even at the height of the suicide bombings last spring, a senior security official said: "This is all being done in an intense effort to catch the terror cell."

The official added: "It is clear to us that there is a group of terrorists that has entered the area. We have no doubt that its intention is to perpetrate a large terrorist attack, whether it is in a shopping mall, a bus or another crowded place. We are not taking any chances." He said that it was advisable to stay away from crowded places "for the next ten days".

The extent of the operation has affected the economy, according to the Israel Industrialists' Association. "The increasing jitter is causing serious and significant dam-

age," Yehoshua Abramovich, its spokesman, said. Haim Ramon, a leading member of the main opposition Labour Party — defeated in the May election largely because of a backlash against Islamic suicide attacks — accused Mr Netanyahu's right-wing Government of "causing general paralysis and putting the entire population into unnecessary hysterics and panic".

A senior member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Hisham Abed Razek, alleged that the sweeping precautions had been introduced to enable the Government to introduce even tougher measures on Palestinians, already living under a closure that has kept most from jobs inside Israel.

"Pictures from Israel depict a country living in a bunker, as if in the midst of war," he said. "This is done to prepare the ground for further [Israeli] extremism."



Hadi Shenuda, 14, whose family were among more than 60 killed when a Cairo apartment building collapsed last week, is comforted by the city's Governor. The boy appealed on Egyptian television to relatives across the world to claim him

Taleban rejects warlord's offer of peace talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

THE Taleban Islamic army rejected yesterday an "insulting" offer of peace talks made by General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the Uzbek warlord who leads a military alliance that controls northern Afghanistan. That seems to guarantee a winter war.

Mullah Muhammad Mutaqi, the Information and Culture Minister for Taleban, said that the terms for a ceasefire, which sounded more like a call for surrender, must include a prior agreement that negotiations would lead to agreement on the establishment of an Islamic state. He made clear that that would be based on Taleban's interpretation of Sharia, or Islamic law.

General Dostum's secular principles are anathema to Taleban and even Mullah Mutaqi, never one to hold back an insult, heaped an uncommon amount of invective on the Uzbek leader yesterday. There is plainly no prospect of a meeting point.

General Dostum is hated not merely because he is a

former Communist; there is also his fondness for Johnnie Walker Blue Label, or Russian vodka on occasion, his ostentatious use of an armoured Cadillac and his apparently growing attachment to the grandiose title of *Pasha*, which some sycophants bestow upon him. Mullah Mutaqi calls him a bad man.

There appears to be stalemate in the battleground north of Kabul, where the general has committed many troops to serve alongside General Ahmed Shah Masood, military chief of the former Government. The war is moving to the west, where the airport in the ancient city of Herat came under air attack from General Dostum's forces yesterday. Taleban said his bombers did no damage.

Mullah Mutaqi listed Taleban's enemies yesterday as Russia, India and Iran. He confirmed that a senior Taleban representative had gone to Saudi Arabia "to talk to Saudi authorities". That is believed to be a mission in search of money.



Young Israelis keep a day-long vigil in Tel Aviv yesterday for Yitzhak Rabin on the anniversary of his death a year ago, an event that dramatically slowed the peace process

Rifkind 'flies kite' for Middle East security grouping

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN ABU DHABI

A DAY after a hectic visit to the flashpoints of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, called yesterday for a new regional security organisation in the Middle East to promote stability and dialogue, much as the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe did during the Cold War.

He said that the proposed Organisation for Co-operation in the Middle East would be an overall structure, comprehensive in membership, that would include all the Arab states as well as Turkey, Israel and eventually Iran and Iraq — although he said the last two would not be admitted with their present governments and policies.

Britain, America and France, as countries with big political and economic stakes in the region, would also join, as perhaps would Russia and the European Union.

Launching his proposal in a speech in Abu Dhabi to businessmen and academics, Mr Rifkind said that the new grouping would not be an alliance or military bloc. Nor could it be in any way a substitute for the essential work of the Middle East peace process. It was not intended to detract from other regional groupings, such as the Arab League and the Gulf Co-operation Council.

ence building, in fighting the causes of terrorism, as well as in building the sort of economic and political networks that prevent conflict and reduce the risks of terrorism."

British officials made clear that Mr Rifkind is flying a kite rather than prescribing a copy of the CSCE transferred to the Middle East. They agreed that the present tensions might make states unwilling to sit down together, especially Syria and some other Arab countries with Israel, and the Gulf states with Iran. But they said the idea had the warm support of the Americans and several other Western states, as well as the backing of Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan.

The new body could begin with a grand conference, much as CSCE did. Mr Rifkind said yesterday it should "evolve, rather than spring fully fledged into existence".

He was at pains to tell his Gulf audience, largely hostile to the recent American bombing of Iraq, that Britain supported the territorial integrity of Iraq and would help to end Baghdad's isolation and repair its economy as soon as there was a new government which fairly represented all Iraq's people and fully observed human rights.

Jerusalem: Dennis Ross, the US Middle East envoy, will return to the region tomorrow to help in settling a deal between the Israelis and Palestinians on Israel's long-delayed troop withdrawal from Hebron, Israel army radio said yesterday. (AFP)

Malcolm Rifkind, page 20

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Dole keeps faith with friends and family in close-knit Kansas society that moulded his politics

Folks back home prepare welcome for favourite son

FROM TOM RHODES IN RUSSELL, KANSAS

RUSSELL is the hometown where Bob Dole has always returned to cry. The small hamlet on the Kansas plains where he launched every political race of his career and the shrine he will visit for just half an hour today to vote.

Surrounded by family and friends, the Republican candidate will enter the First Christian Church on 14th Street and cast his ballot for the American presidency before returning to Washington.

There is nobody in Russell who does not know him as plain Bob, whose cousin is not a distant relative or who has not done business with the Dole family at one time or another.

Breakfast at Meridy's, the most conspicuous diner, offers an extraordinary glimpse of a cult that has pervaded the collective psyche here. Sterling Smith, who runs a "mom and pop" type store once sold his wares to Doran Dole, the candidate's father. Frank Kennedy, a lorry driver, is married to a second cousin. Larry Langhofer rented the Dole house at one time and his wife still owns the desk on which Bob Dole carved his initials at grade school.

At the same table is Jerry Ross, a pallbearer at the funeral of Mr Dole's mother, Bina. His sister is married to a Dole nephew. Next door, sipping tea and eating toast, is Glenna Paschal, a second cousin. They can recount in loving detail the story of how Russell raised \$1,800 (£1,100)



in a cigar box for an operation that saved his life after terrible wounds in Italy during the Second World War. And, although none was alive at the time, they will talk of the days when he was the poor basketball hero at the local high school, a salesman at Dawson's soda fountain and helped at his father's egg and cream station.

At the same time each has an entirely personal anecdote about the family. The time, for example, when Mr Ross was paid \$300 by Doran Dole to drive his wife to a campaign address by their son in Kansas and she paid for the entire trip herself.

"This is small town America," said Mr Smith. "You know your neighbour and you don't lock your doors. You leave your gun in the back of the pick-up. There are people here who have been supporting Bob Dole for 50 years. That's never going to change."

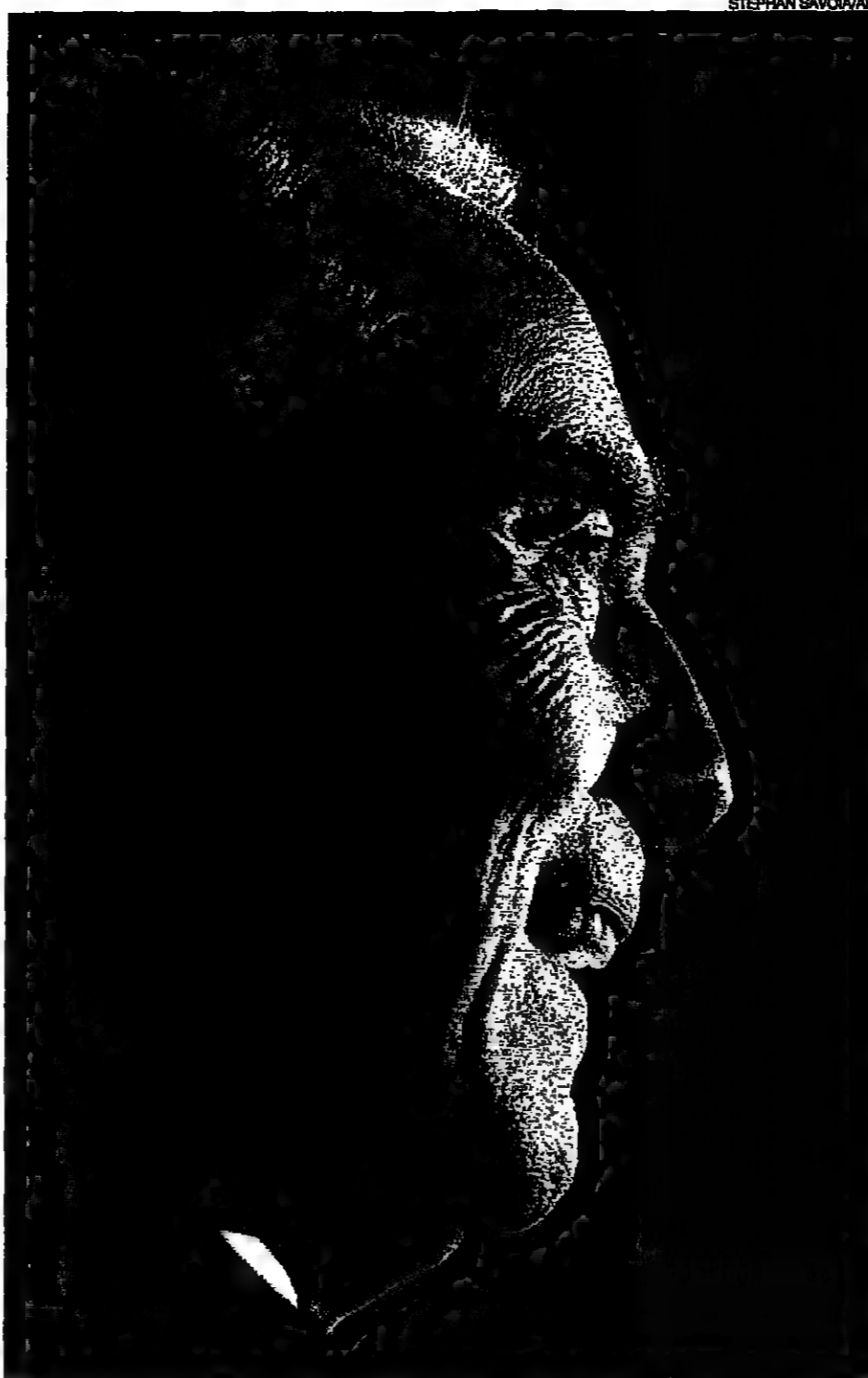
It is exactly the "better" America that Bob Dole has mentioned so often in his campaign speeches. And his

resistance to change is something that those in Russell so easily understand. Change, born of the forces of nature and history, was something to protect against. The dust bowl in the 1930s turned Russell's oil boom to powder; the war injured him for ever.

His proudest moments have always been spent in this town. Gerald Ford came to the plains to announce Mr Dole as his vice-presidential candidate in 1976. Today, however, after a marathon 96-hour campaign, he will spend probably less time here than he had done in Independence, Missouri, President Truman's native town and Mr Dole's previous stop.

This time the omens are not good; the local cinema is playing the *Long Kiss Goodnight* and even his sisters, Gloria Nelson and Norma Steele, were reluctant yesterday to offer their opinion on his chances, although Ms Nelson had said last week she was not convinced Mr Dole would win the election.

Observers have maintained that Bob Dole, the ultimate Washington insider for 35 years, has used Russell as a convenient career prop to project an image of honesty, respect and integrity. Yet while nobody expects him to retire in Russell should he lose tomorrow, the bunting will be out, the dolls for Dole will dance for him and the tradition will continue. Russell is at ease with its place in Bob Dole's heart.



Bob Dole, who will vote in Russell, the "better" America that he campaigned for

Bright future for star turn of the Republican show

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

ALONE among the high-profile members of Bob Dole's entourage, his wife, Elizabeth, will still have a bright future after the expected failure of his bid for the White House today.

She can walk away from the campaign knowing that she transformed the role of contenders for First Lady, and enhanced her own chances for a political future.

Although loyal to her husband, she was manifestly better prepared than he was, and was able to mask the reputation for hard-hearted ambition that earned her the nickname "Steel Magnolia".

Mrs Dole, 60, not only expounded her husband's programme more succinctly than he did and without the aid of a Teleprompter, but she also went after President Clinton in a manner unprecedented for a candidate's wife.

During her solo campaign appearances, she peddled the President over his policy wobbles by displaying a doll-sized rocking chair. "This is a Clinton rocker," she said. "It doesn't rock from front to back, but from left to right."

With her finely tailored suits and ever-present smile, Mrs Dole perfected her technique of sauntering through the audience with a microphone in the style of Oprah Winfrey, the talk-show host.

It looked spontaneous, but towards the end she was performing the routine three times a day, making eye contact, squeezing shoulders, patting backs — and barely changing a word.

She was a good sport, too, prepared to poke fun at herself. In a skit that was wildly

out of character, she donned a Hell's Angels leather jacket emblazoned with the words "Bikers for Bob" and zoomed around the stage of NBC's *Tonight* show as pillion passenger for the host, Jay Leno. "Yeah, rev it baby, let's get out of here," she said. "I'm a biker from way back. I've come a long way from Harvard Law School to biker chick."

In fact, she was a very properly brought up Southern belle and extremely bright. After college she worked for the Nixon Administration in the White House and has been absorbed by politics ever since. She has a longer résumé than any other leading Republican woman, having held a place on the Federal Trade Commission and two Cabinet posts, Secretary of Transport and Secretary of Labour. She has been married to Mr Dole for 21 years.

As they embarked on their final marathon quest for votes, she expressed disappointment with feminism. She said women of her generation were told they could do everything, but she no longer believed they could have a career, marriage, family, contribute to the community and still find time for "ourselves and our souls".

It is ironic that Mrs Dole's popularity has failed to pump up her husband's figures, while Hillary Clinton's unpopularity has not affected her husband's lead.

Washington wonders if one day Mrs Dole will think of running for President herself, or for Vice-President or the Senate. She would certainly be qualified to try.

Stars forego free publicity in protest against video stalkers

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

HOLLYWOOD stars have taken the equivalent of industrial action against video camera stalkers and a dir-dishing American television show. They are so angry they are even foregoing free publicity to make their complaint.

The protest against *Hard Copy*, a prime time "tabloid" television show made by Paramount Television, is being led by George Clooney, an actor. He started the campaign after the show broadcast footage of him in private with his girlfriend, Celine Balidran. Mr Clooney, who stars in *ER*, a hospital serial, said the video film was intrusive.

Paramount also makes a publicity-pull show, *Entertainment Tonight* — the television equivalent of *Hello* magazine. Mr Clooney and a number of influential friends have refused to have anything more to do with the highly popular *Entertainment Tonight* until *Hard Copy* puts its house in order.

The show specialises in sordid fare. It is a major outlet for the video-camera-wielding stalkers — known as "stalkerazzi" — who have multiplied in the past two years and now hover outside the homes of Hollywood stars in the hope of recording some saleable moment.

Mr Clooney's "all-out" call has been supported by Whoopi Goldberg, Rosie O'Donnell, Dean Cain, the *Superman* actor, and a host of other actors whose lives have been made a misery by the cameramen. Anti-stalkerazzi swipes have also been taken by Madonna, Alec Baldwin and Tommy Lee.

Paramount has declined to comment, but it is thought to be distinctly queasy about the bad publicity. Their freelance photographers' activities have coincided with increased censure of stalkers, but American press laws set special conditions for those considered to be "public figures".

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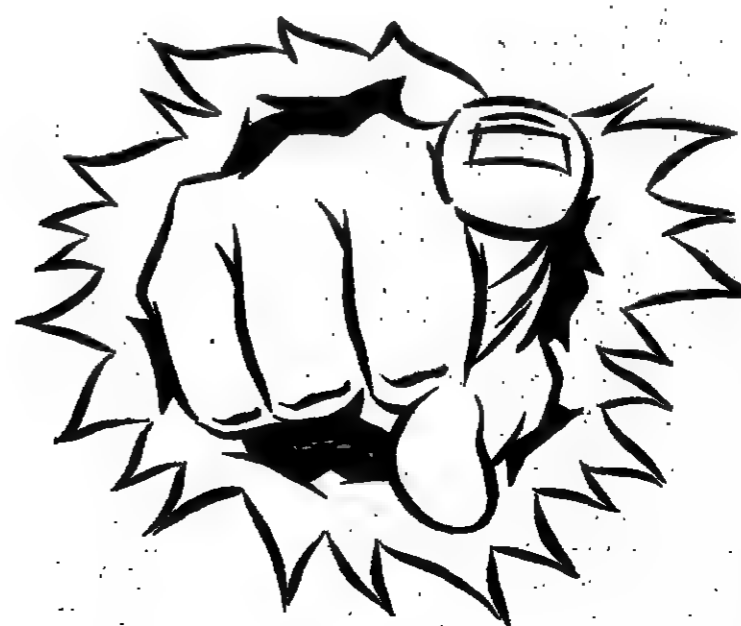


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THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5 1996

BT and MCI advisers expected to earn \$60m

By Eric Reguly

ADVISERS to BT and MCI are expected to earn a minimum of \$60 million if Britain's biggest-ever takeover goes ahead, it emerged yesterday.

The fees have not been set yet, partly because the advisory work on the deal, which may not receive regulatory approval in Europe and the US for a year, is still in progress. The New York and London offices of Rothschild, BT's main adviser, is expected to collect the largest portion of the fees. BT also used Morgan Stanley, while MCI hired Lazards.

The figure is based on the amount paid to the advisers of Nynex and Bell Atlantic, the regional phone companies in the US that are

coming together to create the world's sixth-largest phone group, Concert, the name of the company formed by the BT-MCI merger, will be considerably bigger and is likely to generate higher fees.

BT shares soared yesterday as the City had its first chance to assess the takeover terms and BT's promise to pay a 35p share special dividend as part of its effort to take full control of MCI for about \$20 billion. BT shares finished at 373p, up 22p, on volume of 82 million shares, making it the Stock Exchange's most heavily traded issue. Analysts said the outlook for the shares was positive. SBC Warburg expects the price to rise to 430p, while ABN Amro Hoare Govett is calling for 400p, as shareholders grasp

the potential advantages of entering the world's largest telecoms market.

The price rise was partly attributed to the promise of a special dividend for the year to March 31, 1997, even if the merger collapses. It will be paid in addition to a final dividend

Pennington Page 29

of 19.85p, a rise of 6.1 per cent on the previous year. The City had expected a rise of 4 per cent to 5 per cent. BT also said Concert would look favourably on share buybacks.

Analysts said they expected Concert to move quickly to form a partnership or

alliance with a large Asian telecoms company, such as NTT of Japan. With Europe and America covered, Asia is the biggest gap in Concert's portfolio.

MCI said attacking the local market would be Concert's priority in the US. The 1996 Telecommunications Act allows long-distance and local companies to compete in each other's markets.

The focus on the local market has put MCI's relationship with The News Corporation, the owner of The Times, in question. MCI invested \$1.35 billion for a 10 per cent stake in News Corp. and intended to spend a further \$650 million to raise its stake to 13 per cent or so. Bert Roberts, the MCI chairman, said that MCI was now in the

process of "redefining" its relationship with News Corp. and sources close to the deal said it was highly unlikely that MCI would raise its News Corp investment beyond the present level. News Corp, which is developing a digital broadcasting system with MCI in the US for residential and business customers, declined to comment.

Sir Peter Bonfield, the BT chief executive who is to become chief executive of Concert, said he expected Concert to receive regulatory approval in the US. But AT&T, Concert's main rival, said approval is not certain. AT&T noted that the US Government might not approve the deal unless it can determine that the UK telecoms market is as open as the American market.

BUSINESS
TODAY

STOCK MARKET	
FTSE 100	3028.1 (-20.4)
Yield	3.85%
FTSE All shares	3528.1 (-8.48)
Nikkei	Choshi
New York	
Dow Jones	6031.99 (+10.06)
S&P Composite	705.30 (+1.53)

LIB RATE	
Federal Funds	6.75% (8.5%)
Long Bond	101.1* (100.7)
Yield	6.67% (6.66%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-mth interbank	6.75% (8.5%)
Lib long gill	108.10 (108.00)

COMMODITY	
New York	
Crude oil	1.6437* (1.6366)
Gold	1.6488 (1.6376)
DM	2.4919 (2.4833)
Yen	8.4254 (8.3822)
SF	2.0903 (2.0822)
Yen	187.40 (186.01)
£ index	91.2 (90.9)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE	
London	
DM	1.5148* (1.5140)
Yen	1.5152* (1.5140)
SF	1.5152* (1.5140)
Yen	113.35* (113.40)
£ index	97.0 (97.0)

TOKYO CLOSE	
Yen	113.67

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Jan)	\$22.15 (\$22.20)

LONDON	
Close	\$378.86 (\$377.65)

* denotes midday trading price

Burford
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£5.1m in
share sale

By Jason Nisse

NICK LESLAW, the only person who is chief executive of two UK quoted companies, yesterday made a £5.14 million profit from selling shares in one of them, Burford Group, the property concern. He promptly handed a big slice of the money to the taxman.

Mr Leslaw, who is also chief executive of Trocadero, the AIM-listed owner of the Piccadilly Circus leisure complex of that name, was granted options over 4.8 million Burford shares five years ago. Then, the shares were languishing at 19p, and Mr Leslaw's options were priced at 28.4p each.

Yesterday, Burford shares stood at 136.4p, down 1p, and the company's stockbroker, Barclays de Zoete Wedd, was able to place Mr Leslaw's stake with investors, giving him a £5.14 million profit.

As for Mr Leslaw, who is 37, the tax authorities are taking up to £2 million of the proceeds.

Mr Leslaw said: "I did not want to sell, but the scheme was not an Inland Revenue approved share option scheme, so when it crystallised the Revenue ruled that I had made the profit and claimed its share, so I had to find the money for the bill."

Mr Leslaw, who was paid £390,000 in salary and bonus last year by Burford, retains 3.8 million Burford shares, valued last night at £5.2 million. He has other share options and interests in both Burford and Trocadero worth another £11 million.

Rise in
house
prices
tops 7%

By Marianne Curphey

THE recovery in the housing market is gathering pace, the Halifax says today, with prices rising at their fastest rate for more than 30 months.

The building society, Britain's biggest lender with 2.5 million borrowers, says house prices in October rose by 1.6 per cent, an unexpectedly large jump after modest increases in previous months.

It was the largest monthly rise since February 1994, when prices increased by 1.8 per cent. The annual change was 7.1 per cent. The rise prompted Halifax to increase its forecast for the whole year from 5 per cent to 7 per cent.

The Halifax monthly survey contradicts the assertion of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, that he could detect no signs of a housing boom and raises the prospect of an acceleration in consumer demand before the general election.

Gary Marsh, of the Halifax, said a similar rise was expected for 1997. Last week's quarter-point rise in the base rate to 6 per cent would not affect house sales, he said. "Mortgage rates have not moved and are not likely to move," he said, adding: "The trend is upwards and we are hoping for a gradual sustained recovery."

However, Rob Thomas, building societies analyst with the Swiss bank UBS, predicted house price inflation would reach 10 per cent by the year end. "The market is incredibly strong," he said. "More people are looking to buy and demand is outstripping supply. Homes are historically at their most affordable. The cost of a house is three times average earnings, compared with the situation at the top of the market in 1989 when the figure was five times earnings."

Rises had been particularly strong in London and the South East, he said, regions that had suffered badly from negative equity. But house prices would have to rise 32 per cent to wipe out negative equity there. He said autumn and spring were traditionally the busiest times for house buying.

Mr Marsh said: "Although such a strong monthly rise is unlikely to be repeated over the next two to three months, house price inflation is now likely to end the year in excess of our forecast of 5 per cent, probably around 7 per cent."

Prices paid by first-time buyers rose in October by 1.1 per cent, taking the annual rate of inflation from 4.8 per cent reported in the previous month to 7.1 per cent. The average price paid by first-time buyers in October was £47,963. But prices of new houses fell 0.8 per cent.

Although recent figures show the average price of a home in London has moved above £100,000, the Chancellor said at the beginning of October that he could detect no signs of a boom. "The level of transactions in the housing market remain subdued and the overhang of unsold properties in the market has not been cleared," the minutes of his meeting with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England recorded.

However, another government department was far more bullish about prospects for house sales yesterday. The Environment Department said 16,700 new houses were started in September, compared with 15,400 a year earlier. In the latest three months, 47,100 houses were started, an increase of 13 per cent on a year ago.

James Clappison, Environment minister, said this was "encouraging confirmation" of the improvement in the market. "Prospects of improved growth in real incomes and low mortgage rates should help to improve consumer confidence and support a broad recovery in the housing market over the next 12-18 months," he said.

The Halifax index shows prices of new houses fell after a rise of 0.3 per cent. The average price of a new house was £69,051 against £65,099 for second-hand houses.

Pennington, page 29



Charles Brady, left, will be chairman and chief executive of the new group, while Charles "Ted" Bauer will be locked in for at least four years

By ROBERT MILES

Invesco's US deal doubles
funds under management

INVESCO has nearly doubled the funds under its management after an agreement to buy a US mutual fund manager in a £1 billion deal.

Invesco, the London-listed international fund manager that looks after £58 billion, announced yesterday that it has bought AIM Management, the fast-growing US mutual company, which has £35 billion under management and is America's thirteenth largest.

The money to pay for the AIM acquisition, which will see the newly enlarged group

renamed Amvesco, will come largely from the issue to AIM shareholders of 290 million new ordinary Invesco shares, at an approximate value of £650 million. The balance will be raised from new debt and from the proceeds of a one-for-five rights issue.

The AIM deal leaves the newly enlarged group poised to make further acquisitions

with the £700 million of cash it has on its books. Last year Invesco bought the Far East arm of Aetna, the US insurer, also for £1 billion, and further deals are likely.

In personal terms the main beneficiaries of yesterday's acquisition are the four AIM founders, headed by Charles "Ted" Bauer. The four, who founded the US group almost

20 years ago, have been locked in, with bonuses, for an initial four years.

Invesco, which manages some £73 billion in the UK and has ten investment trusts and 22 unit trusts, has made no secret of its ambition to become one of the world's largest fund managers. It has plans to open offices in all major European cities, and Robert

McCullough, Invesco's chief financial officer, yesterday said Amvesco would be recruiting more people on the Continent as well as forming "strategic alliances".

Charles Brady, chairman of Invesco, who becomes chairman and chief executive of the new group, said: "Amvesco will be a major investment management company with the scale necessary for success, as a financially strong and independent business, operating in an increasingly concentrated industry."

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City Diary, page 31

ABF ready to make £1bn acquisition

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM



Weston: in no hurry

GARRY WESTON, chairman and chief executive of Associated British Foods, said that the cash-rich company, owner of British Sugar and Twinings Tea, may spend up to £1 billion on an acquisition.

"We are in a position to make a very major acquisition," Mr Weston said. ABF is looking to buy within the food industry but outside Europe, he said. "There is little growth in the food markets of Europe, the big opportunities are in the Far East and North America." He said packaged foods were not an area of interest, and cautioned that an acquisition might not happen for several months.

Analysts said Mr Weston's traditional unwillingness to pay for goodwill meant

that ABF, in which Mr Weston and his family own a majority stake through charitable trusts, is unlikely to buy a quoted company. It is also thought possible that it will buy several companies for £100 million to £150 million each rather than make one large acquisition.

The company's cash pile grew £196 million to £797 million in the year to September 14, while shareholders' funds grew 9 per cent to £245 billion. Its pre-tax profit grew 15 per cent to £430 million, beating analysts' forecasts. This prompted some to increase their forecasts for the current year to about £440 million. The company spent £225 million on new assets, all outside the UK.

Operating profits at British Sugar fell slightly to £183 million. ABF blamed the

strength of sterling and the cost of changes to the operating structure. Profits in the food manufacturing and processing operations in the UK grew 12 per cent to £282 million. Twinings and Burton's Biscuits achieved record levels of profitability.

Mr Weston, 69, who has been running ABF for three decades, has no intention of retiring yet. "When I feel I have nothing left to offer, I will take it seriously," he said. The company will pay a second interim dividend of 5.25p per share (4.5p). It is payable on March 3. It gives a dividend for the whole year of 9.5p, up 9 per cent. Earnings per share were up 12 per cent to 31p.

Tempus, page 30

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JOHN CHARCOL

□ Bill for BT's plans won't arrive for years □ Car dealerships need shake-up □ Mixed signals from the housing market

Premium call rate

BRITISH TELECOM'S decision to take full control of MCI, America's second-largest long-distance phone company, for about \$20 billion is a strategic U-turn. In the past couple of years, BT has concentrated on building a European presence in advance of deregulation on the Continent in 1998. The strategy was an obvious one: growth was assured because operators such as Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom could only lose market share once their monopolies were broken.

Now BT has decided to switch attention from the world's least competitive market to the most competitive. In buying MCI, the company is entering into a free-for-all that will produce as many losers as winners. The 1996 Telecommunications Act, the most sweeping telecoms legislation since AT&T was broken up in 1984, will allow local and long-distance companies to compete in each other's markets.

MCI has already committed to spend \$2 billion to build the basis of a local business and will have to spend billions more to become a significant player. This is the main attraction of bringing in the British. The question is whether BT has the financial might and imagination to make a splash. While the company has vast experience in the local market, it has none in the US.

America is littered with the corpses of foreign adventurers. BT will argue that its American and European strategies are identical. In each case, easy profits are meant to come by introducing competition into what was previously a monopoly market. Local calls in the US are the sole domain of the regional phone companies, or Baby Bells, a situation the Telecommunications Act is supposed to eliminate, and the margins are huge. MCI has to pay 45 per cent of its long-distance call revenue to the regional phone companies. While the local market looks tempting, BT should not forget that far more nimble players such as AT&T and Sprint are just as eager to attack. Margins, as a result, can only fall.

The problem is that many years will pass, and many billions will be spent, before BT will be able to judge its success, or lack of it, in the local market. In the meantime, the war will have to continue on many fronts. In the UK, BT has stated it is willing to spend £15 billion to upgrade its local networks to provide high-capacity services

such as video-on-demand. In Europe, the company has capital-hungry partnerships in almost every major country, and it is scouring the market for an Asian partner. The suspicion is that BT is overstretching itself. Neither Sir Iain Vallance, chairman, nor Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive, are men to show signs of self-doubt even despite the lack of overseas experience. But as the bills for penetrating the local market come in, MCI shareholders, who are already being paid a 30 per cent premium to the share price before talks were revealed, may emerge as the real winner.

No way to drive a bargain

YOU get into your car each weekend and drive some way out of town. You do this because the superstore you are heading for carries a wider range than the high street, allowing you to choose the best value brand of soap powder or whatever that week. The prices are keener, anyway, because of that out-of-



town location and the buying power that big grocers enjoy.

The car you drive to the superstore in, however, has been bought from a small hole in the wall in the high street. There was no choice when you bought it — just one brand per hole in the wall. If the car was new, you probably had to wait weeks for delivery, because the store does not have the space to carry all the stock it sells. This is because it is in the high street.

In an ideal world you would have travelled some distance out of town to a large facility, purpose-built or converted from another use, where there would be a range of new and second-hand models parked outside. You test-drive the half a dozen

makes that are in your price range. You don't like the clutch on this one, or the trim on the other; you still drive away the ideal car for your needs.

This doesn't happen because of our weird and outdated system of car dealership, a legalised cartel which requires retailers to pledge they will sell one brand only, and fight like sharks for the privilege. It dates back to the days when there were not enough cars being produced, and some sort of rationing was needed. Franchises, which carry the right to be part of this cartel, change hands for large amounts.

This system is breaking down, but surprisingly slowly. Joining the stock market this month is the Car Group, which has ambitious plans to trade a range of cars at out-of-town locations. Used cars, only, though. No one has yet tried the same trick with new ones, because, supposedly, this would upset the manufacturers. And yet the latter are cutting down on their dealership networks because even they recognise that this is an inefficient way to shift the 30 per cent or so of production that goes to the

private buyer. It cannot be too many years before someone tries the Car Group approach with new cars too.

Trading places

READING the runes in the housing market was difficult enough even before last week's base rate rise and the assumption of dearer mortgages in future. Monthly figures from the Halifax provide some clue, but this is still the strangest market we have seen in years.

For one thing, it disobeys one basic rule of economics, that scarcity pushes prices up. There is a desperate shortage of good-quality homes in the right areas — three and four-bedroom family houses in popular suburbs, say. Such homes are often selling within days, a certainty which discourages potential buyers from putting their own properties on the market until they have found somewhere to move. This increases the shortage, as there are more visible buyers than sellers.

The result should be that prices go through the roof. They are not doing so because buyers remember only too well the last time that the housing market took off and appreciate the fragility of any upturn. So most are terrified of overpaying. Last week's interest rate move, even if it had no impact on mortgages, will have increased this caution, while highlighting the attractions of the fixed-rate deals on offer.

The Halifax figures show that since 1994 the average price of a second-hand home has risen three times as fast as a new house. The builders have been saying this for years; they cannot compete, because they cannot build in those areas where people want to live, those afore-said leafy suburbs that are seeing the best price rises. The end result must be a housing market with a far wider range of prices, from the respectable proportions of a million pounds attaching to fairly ordinary family homes in the right areas to cheap, largely unwanted first-time flats elsewhere.

This divergence has been evident ever since the market collapsed at the end of the 1980s. Paradoxically, it offers the best encouragement to buyers and sellers alike; if you want to upgrade, it will only get more difficult as time goes on.

Citizens Financial in deal

Citizens Financial Group, the US arm of the Royal Bank of Scotland, is paying \$87 million for Grove Bank. Grove has seven branches in Boston and total assets of \$599 million. The deal also includes the three-branch Greater Boston Bank, the purchase of which Grove announced in August. After the acquisition, Citizens will have 240 branches in four New England states, with assets of about \$16 billion.

Job in pipeline

British Gas is to have a new managing director of exploration and production, Frank Chapman, after the departure of its last chief to Enterprise Oil. Mr Chapman, who worked for Shell for 18 years, starts next week. He last worked at Kvaerner where he headed its oil and gas interests until the Norwegian company's takeover of Trafalgar House.

Results dates

National Grid is due to report its interim financial results on November 26 (Companies, Business News, November 4). Carlton Communications is due to report final results on December 4.

Bidders for Conrail may divide the spoils

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE \$8 billion bid battle for Conrail, the largest railway company in northeast America, has taken a new twist with the two bidders holding talks about dividing the company between them.

CSX, a company that has Sir Denis Thatcher as a director, and Norfolk Southern are holding discussions over the possibility of one side dropping out of the bidding but buying certain agreed assets from the purchaser. The outcome will decide which of the companies, both based in Virginia, will dominate the rail industry in the eastern US.

However, the companies already disagree about the substance of the talks. CSX claims that it is discussing the possibility of selling some Conrail assets to Norfolk if Norfolk drops out of the bidding. Norfolk says it has no intention of dropping its bid but is considering selling some Conrail as-

sets to CSX if it wins. Both sides said the other initiated the talks.

The bids were launched about two weeks ago and whichever side wins will become the largest railways company in the eastern US, raising regulatory concerns.

This appears to be the reason for the latest discussions, since both bidders realise they may have to divest some assets to avoid being penalised under anti-trust rules. "We are committed to maintaining a competitive balance in the east," Northern said. Both companies are also nervous of alienating corporate clients if they become too powerful as a result of buying Conrail.

Norfolk's bid continues to look the more attractive of the two since it is offering \$100 in cash for each Conrail share, valuing the offer at \$8.1 billion. CSX's cash and paper offer has fallen below \$8 billion because of a decline in the company's share price. Norfolk also announced yesterday that it has secured \$15 billion in bank financing for its bid, nearly twice the amount it actually needs. The company said the enthusiasm of its bank backers underlines the attractiveness of its offer.

The bid battle is part of the big restructuring sweeping through the US rail industry, spurred on by rising business and profits as freight shippers increasingly use rail rather than road for the first time in more than two decades. Conrail was created by the forced merger of five ailing rail companies in the early 1980s.

But rapid consolidation is creating a small number of rail company giants that many analysts fear will lead to a fall in competition. After two other big deals in the last 12 months there are now only two big companies in the western US and two in the east.



Simon Bentley says he expects Blacks Leisure to improve further in the second half

Football fans lift Blacks

BY FRASER NELSON

THE busy summer of sport helped to lift trading at Blacks Leisure, the sports shop chain, which achieved an increased interim pre-tax profit of £3.9 million (£736,000).

Simon Bentley, chairman, said that during the Euro '96 tournament, visiting football fans increased sales of international football strips.

First Sport, its core chain, lifted margins from 46.2 per cent to 48.6 per cent over the half year. Active Venture, specialising in active fashion clothes, expanded from one to nine stores. Miss Sam, the company's womenswear wholesaler and designer, suffered a loss of £100,000. Mr Bentley said the division had been earmarked for disposal.

Mr Bentley said the second half is traditionally stronger than the first and sales are already 15 per cent stronger in the first nine weeks. In all, 19 stores were added to Blacks's 85-strong portfolio. Like-for-like sales grew 24 per cent, taking turnover to £422 million (£31 million) and earnings to 8.46p per share (1.59p). An interim dividend of 1.25p (0.75p) is due on February 3.

United Utilities sells lending arm

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

UNITED UTILITIES, the North West electricity and water company, has sold the lending arm of its electrical retailing division to Lombard Tricity Finance.

The sale will net £113 million for United Utilities, the country's first "super utility", formed from the takeover of Norweb by North West Water. Lombard Tricity, part of the NatWest Group, is paying an initial £100 million. It is expected to pay a further £13 million from the cashflow of the portfolio of customers' credit arrangements.

United is looking to sell its entire retail business along with other parts of the company in a sell-off programme announced earlier this year.

Brian Staples, chief executive, said: "This is a further significant disposal of non-core activities and brings the total raised from disposals to approximately £238 million towards our target of £350 million."

It is likely that the retail business will be the next to go, leaving United with its generation interests still to be sold. Norweb Retailing operates from a string of out-of-town superstores and high street shops, and the utility is in talks with a number of potential buyers. It is thought that the business would make a sensible buy for Scottish Power, which has outlined nationwide ambitions for power supply and a desire to be a high street name.

Friends Provident to raise £215m

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

FRIENDS PROVIDENT, the mutual life insurer which for more than a year has been rumoured to be considering flotation or looking for a parent, is raising £215 million of extra capital on the stock market. The insurer said this indicated its intention to "stay mutual and independent".

Analysts commented that as long as equities continued to rise and the insurer's portfolio increased, it would be under no pressure to seek a stock market listing. A market collapse, however, would still leave it vulnerable. The £215 million will be raised through a bond issue and will raise the company's capital base to more than £2 billion.

In 1994 Scottish Amicable became the first British mutual to make a public issue of such loans. The capital raised can be taken into account

when calculating a life company's solvency margin.

Michael Doerr, chief executive, said the move would enable Friends Provident to make acquisitions. It took over National Mutual Australia in 1993 and this year just missed acquiring the coal industry's £15 billion CINman fund.

A total of £215 million nominal undated subordinated bonds were issued yesterday by FP Finance and guaranteed by Friends Provident Life Office. This new debt will be repaid only after policyholders and Friends's senior creditors have been paid. The issue was arranged by Merrill Lynch and SBC Warburg.

Standard and Poor's, the credit rating agency, said Friends had come to market at a sensible time because interest rates were low.



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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Flying start for BT shares in bout of frantic trading

FRANTIC trading in BT accounted for almost 15 per cent of the total turnover of the London stock market. By the close of business, 84.2 million BT shares had changed hands, compared with 64.8 million for the market as a whole.

The announcement of the group's proposed merger with MCI came too late on Friday for the London market to react. But the shares got off to a flying start yesterday, soaring 22p to 373p as brokers gave an enthusiastic thumbs up to the proposed £12 billion merger and 35p dividend sweetener.

Brokers said that BT would be effectively throwing money at shareholders over the next year. In addition to the special dividend, it has also agreed to pay a 7.5p interim in January, followed by a final of 11.95p in September of next year.

One broker said: "The shares are yielding something like 18 per cent. You can't turn your back on something like that."

SBC Warburg reckons the shares could reach as high as 430p once the deal is concluded, while ABN Amro Hoare Govett has set a target price of 400p. But as other brokers have been quick to point out, US investors may turn out to be sellers of the newly merged company. MCI is regarded as a growth stock in the US and a merger with a listed and tested income stock such as BT may not suit their needs.

The speculation generated by the deal focused attention on other telecom companies, with Vodafone rising 5p to 241p. It is seen as a possible bid target by one of the other US giants such as AT&T. Cable and Wireless, which has linked up with other partners, fell 6p to 483p. But the deal failed to benefit Securitor, down 8p to 275p. There is growing concern that BT may now have got cold feet about buying a 40 per cent stake in Celtel. Brokers say Securitor's share of Celtel could be worth as much as £1 billion.

Telexmark marked time at 141p after seeing losses at the third-quarter stage double to £59.1 million.

The rest of the equity market had a lacklustre session, with investors reluctant to make a move ahead of polling in the US presidential election. The lull gave investors more time to ponder the outlook for



Shares of Tesco, the supermarket group, dropped 4p to 325p

interest rates after last week's quarter-point rise to 6 per cent. It left them wondering if further rises might be on the way — a point that tomorrow's Bank of England Inflation Report may underline.

A volatile start to trading on Wall Street failed to offer any lead to London with the Dow Jones Industrial average moving 20 points higher after

Burford Holdings fell 4p to 136p as Nick Leslau, chief executive, raised £5.14 million after exercising options on 4.8 million shares at 28.4p. The shares were placed with institutions by BZW. He still owns 3.8 million shares and £11 million of shares and options in Burford and associate companies.

recovered from a ten-point fall. In the event, the FT-SE 100 index closed just above its low for the day with a loss of 20.4 points at 3,928.1.

The pound's strength against major competitors continued to undermine big exporters, with Blue Circle Industries falling 6p to 388p, BOC 7p to 856p, Reed International 8p to £1.25, and SmithKline Beecham 11p to 749p.

Save 17p down at 302p. Full-year figures from cash-rich Associated British Foods came in at the top end of expectations and were rewarded with a rise of 8p to 425p. Anglian Water, reporting today, stood out with a rise of 10p to 559p. The market is looking for a modest increase in pre-tax profits of about £4 million at £130 million. But once again the focus of atten-

tion will be on the dividend, which may be up as much as 18 per cent at 10.5p. Thomas Water, which unveiled impressive figures last week, ended 34p down at 543p as the shares went ex-dividend. There was a muted response to the latest update by British Biotech of phase three testing of Marimastat, its new anti-cancer treatment. The shares finished 21p lower at 207p as more than three million changed hands.

Brokers began downgrading profit estimates for T&N after it said that sales of automotive parts remained patchy. A downturn in diesel parts made it difficult for the group to assess the outcome for the year. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, responded by cutting its forecast by £9 million to £111 million. The shares fell 3p to 125p.

The only positive news for the group came from the US Supreme Court, which has agreed to review a settlement setting fixed payments for asbestos-related diseases.

TI Group dropped 8p to 560p after ruling out the prospect of increasing its £189 million bid for Forsythe, the Swedish polymer group. The group has come under pressure from dissident shareholders, led by Henderson Investors, to raise its offer. TI already has the backing of shareholders representing 63 per cent of the issued shares.

GILT-EDGED: Investors remained in a cautious mood, reluctant to open fresh positions before the US presidential election and tomorrow's Bank of England Inflation Report.

Prices continued to lose ground, partly reflecting last week's first rate rise for two years and growing concerns that others may be in the pipeline.

In the futures pit, the December series of the Long Gilt finished 5.32p lower at £108.16 as the total number of contracts completed reached 42,000.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished 1.16p lower at £100.35, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 5.32p off at £102.11.

NEW YORK: At midday, shares on Wall Street were higher in a very quiet final session before the presidential election. The Dow Jones Industrial average was up 10.06 points to 6,031.99.

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 6,031.99 (+10.06)
S&P Composite 705.30 (+1.52)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average Closed

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 12,594.40 (+30.13)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 581.32 (+0.01)

Sydney:
DAX 2,397.5 (+18.1)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2,671.86 (+1.39)

Singapore:
Straits 2,075.76 (+7.61)

Brussels:
General 991.27 (+18.67)

Paris:
CAC-40 2,142.15 (+1.64)

Zurich:
SIX 885.80 (+5.30)

London:
FT 100 3,928.1 (-20.4)

FTSE Mid 250 4,184.1 (-10.8)

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TEMPUS
AIM for dollars

BEARS of the US stock market will carp at Invesco's £1 billion takeover of AIM Management Group. Invesco is already heavily skewed to the mood on Wall Street, with 80 per cent of its own business originating Stateside. AIM brings with it some £8 billion of client funds, a treasure chest that will render trifling Invesco's remaining UK business.

When Invesco disclosed that it was in talks with AIM in September, there were worries that it would overpay. The relatively happy mood among US investors means that fund management groups are highly sought after businesses. In the event, a price of \$1.6 billion for a business that could earn almost \$100 million in the current year suggests an exit multiple of 16.5 times. Not cheap, but not particularly expensive when the company's growth rate is put into the equation.

Invesco is unlikely to achieve much in the way of cost savings from this deal. In effect, its greater concern will be to look in key people, a process that could be expensive in an industry in which corporate loyalty is becoming scarce. AIM sells retail products, exploiting the rapid growth in 401K investment plans, a product similar to a PEP but held until retirement. AIM's sales have doubled since 1994 and some forecasts of \$120 million in net earnings in 1997 reduce the exit multiple to 13 times.

Therefore, Invesco is gambling on a rising stream of cash flowing into US retirement funds, and the goodwill premium paid for AIM buys a voluminous address list of financial advisers who act as conduits for funds. The market could turn sour, but anxiety about poverty in retirement is increasing here and in America. That bodes well for Invesco.

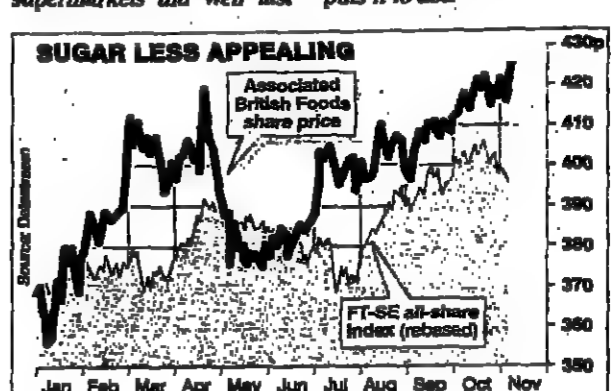
AB Foods

THE pile of cash at Associated British Foods is taking on the appearance of a Carli André sculpture. Like the infamous bricks at the Tate Gallery, it is expensive, seems to serve little purpose and arouses criticism. Nevertheless (and like the bricks) there is a grudging acceptance of ABF's lot. After all, the company managed to increase profits 15 per cent last year, in spite of having a large slug of its capital earning single digit interest.

But if ABF does find a £1 billion deal that meets its exacting standards, then ABF could become a much more interesting investment. A decent acquisition would give far higher returns than money earns on deposit. Moreover, a good acquisition would make the group less dependant on British

SUGAR LESS APPEALING

Sugar, which is currently responsible for about half of operating profits, is a highly subsidised commodity, but there is some pressure for that to change. If the subsidies were reduced, British Sugar would suddenly become a much less valuable asset. Elsewhere in the group, the Northern Ireland supermarkets did well last



Greycoat

WHICHEVER way you look at it, UK Active Value's proposal makes little sense. Putting the portfolio up for sale is a weak stance from which to extract maximum value. The principal asset — Embankment Place — is a problem. Its rental income is ahead of the market rate and any buyer — there are few for £200 million buildings — would be seeking a bond-type, nil-growth yield of about 8 per cent. Were the property anticipating a good rental review, the yield would be a more racy 6.5 per cent.

Greycoat wants to wait, say 12 months, by when the disparity between market rents and Embankment Place will have narrowed, but UKAV thinks a liquidation would at least substantially narrow the gap between the share price of 148p and a net asset value which UKAV puts at 185p.

Of course, that is nonsense because the open market

property valuations that underpin a company's balance sheet are not based on a quick sale of the entire portfolio. Add selling costs and a £10 million bill for unwinding interest rate swaps and the proceeds are unlikely to fetch anything near 185p per share.

But UKAV has a reason to criticise Greycoat. It has been a lousy investment by any measure, but much of that is down to the poor performance of the office property market. Investors who put money into retail or leisure properties will have done much better, but Greycoat was advertised as a play on Central London offices. Arguably, Greycoat should have sold Embankment Place two years ago, when bond-type properties were enjoying a mini-boom in an otherwise dead market, but it makes little sense to sell just as rental growth resumes.

UKAV's brand of shareholder guerrilla warfare is a welcome change to the gentle

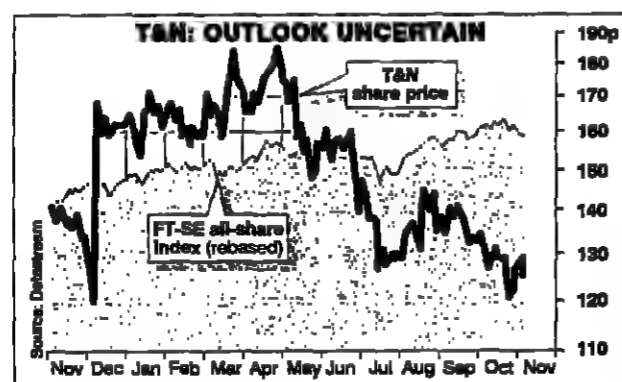
and largely ineffective persuasion of institutions. Yet it needs to offer more realistic alternatives. If there were a bidder out there for Greycoat, or its properties, it would have shown its face by now.

T&N

T&N NEVER seems to enjoy a clear run of good news. The decision by the US Supreme Court to review a lower court's challenge to the Georgine Settlement procedure is a welcome break. It recognises that the lower court's decision was probably out of line with precedent. More important, it means that the Georgine settlement procedures stay in place until the Supreme Court rules, which will take ages.

Yet T&N now reveals its core business of friction and piston products is suffering weak demand and lower margins. One has to be thankful even for small mercies.

EDITED BY CARL MORTIMER



recovered from a ten-point fall. In the event, the FT-SE 100 index closed just above its low for the day with a loss of 20.4 points at 3,928.1.

The pound's strength against major competitors continued to undermine big exporters, with Blue Circle Industries falling 6p to 388p, BOC 7p to 856p, Reed International 8p to £1.25, and SmithKline Beecham 11p to 749p.

Save 17p down at 302p. Full-year figures from cash-rich Associated British Foods came in at the top end of expectations and were rewarded with a rise of 8p to 425p. Anglian Water, reporting today, stood out with a rise of 10p to 559p. The market is looking for a modest increase in pre-tax profits of about £4 million at £130 million. But once again the focus of atten-

tion will be on the dividend, which may be up as much as 18 per cent at 10.5p. Thomas Water, which unveiled impressive figures last week, ended 34p down at 543p as the shares went ex-dividend. There was a muted response to the latest update by British Biotech of phase three testing of Marimastat, its new anti-cancer treatment. The shares finished 21p lower at 207p as more than three million changed hands.

Brokers began downgrading profit estimates for T&N after it said that sales of automotive parts remained patchy. A downturn in diesel parts made it difficult for the group to assess the outcome for the year. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, responded by cutting its forecast by £9 million to £111 million. The shares fell 3p to 125p.

The only positive news for the group came from the US Supreme Court, which has agreed to review a settlement setting fixed payments for asbestos-related diseases.

TI Group dropped 8p to 560p after ruling out the prospect of increasing its £189 million bid for Forsythe, the Swedish polymer group. The group has come under pressure from dissident shareholders, led by Henderson Investors, to raise its offer. TI already has the backing of shareholders representing 63 per cent of the issued shares.

GILT-EDGED: Investors remained in a cautious mood, reluctant to open fresh positions before the US presidential election and tomorrow's Bank of England Inflation Report.

Prices continued to lose ground, partly reflecting last week's first rate rise for two years and growing concerns that others may be in the pipeline.

In the futures pit, the December series of the Long Gilt finished 5.32p lower at £108.16 as the total number of contracts completed reached 42,000.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished 1.16p lower at £100.35, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 5.32p off at £102.11.

NEW YORK: At midday, shares on Wall Street were higher in a very quiet final session before the presidential election. The Dow Jones Industrial average was up 10.06 points to 6,031.99.

Shares of Tesco, the supermarket group, dropped 4p to 325p

Shares of Tesco, the supermarket group, dropped 4p to 325p

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Cuckoo in the nest

TENANTS can be troublesome, but few are quite as annoying as UK Active Value Fund. The company, which rents office space from Greycoat in Bretenham House on London's Savoy Street, just happens to be one of the property investment group's largest shareholders.

Peter Thornton, Greycoat's chief executive, would dearly love to be rid of UKAV, which is run by Brian Myerson. For it is Myerson who has been harassing Greycoat with proposals to liquidate the company's portfolio and to change the business.

Superbly in the locks and large barking dogs are clearly not an option for a respectable landlord such as Thornton, who has resigned himself to waiting until UK Active Value makes the first move. "When I sit at my desk, Myerson is only seven feet above me at his desk," he sighs.

Texas-style

IT IS never too late, if the birth of the somewhat unimaginatively named Amvoco is anything to go by. Charles T. Bauer, the 77-year-old chairman and chief executive officer of AIM, which is based in Texas, who has been with the privately owned fund managers since 1976, must be proof that there's life in the old dog yet.

Twenty years on, and Bauer is happily ensconced under his new employment agreement for an initial term of at least four years.

**ALLIANCE
LEICESTER
EQUAL SHARES
FOR ALL**

"But I'm a smarter investor"

Rebel HQ

THE 63-year-old retired estate agent at the helm of the Alliance and Leicester action group, has set up base in his neighbour's front room. Patrick Mount, chairman of Somerset Parish Council, who has £147,000 tied up in the society, is commanding troops from broadcaster Keith Chalkley's makeshift studio.

A fellow A&L member and UK correspondent for five countries, Chalkley is delighted that his high-tech broadcasting equipment is being put to use. "I was beginning to worry that I'd wasted my money," says Chalkley, who has been kept busy stocking the biscuit tin and boiling the kettle.

Pairing off

TWO'S company, three's a crowd, as far as legal firm McKenna & Co is concerned. When merger talks among managing partners from McKenna, Denton Hall, and Cameron Markby Hewitt, fell by the way last week, all was not lost. Cameron Markby may have backed out of the tripartite merger, but talks between Denton and McKenna continue.

Brotherly love

A SIGNED Joe Cocker CD may have seemed a strange prize to offer motor racers at a Silverstone corporate day in aid of the charity Wateraid. But the CD was just one of the incentives donated by the event host and boss of Severn Trent, one Vic Cocker — brother of Joe.

MORAG PRESTON

Brooks Brothers discovers how to change with the times

M&S has seen its venerable US clothing chain gain a new lease of life, says Ian Brodie

THE startling changes at Brooks Brothers are apparent from the opening pages of its autumn catalogue. Gone are the mature, somber figures of yesteryear. In their place, three smiling lads and a lass are lounging against a convertible. Their shirt sleeves are casually rolled up. Collars are undone. Ties have been yanked loose. One fellow has his shirt tail hanging out. Hair is tousled.

The foursome have a nonchalant, unconstrained air about them that sets the tone for the pages that follow. True, the classic Brooks Brothers suits and blazers are still to be found, but splashed predominantly among them are less formal fashions, along with vivid ties and an array of shirts in appealingly jaunty colours. None of the men wearing the clothes seems to be older than 28. All exude the confidence and gusto of well-to-do young professionals.

"There's a whole new spirit," the catalogue explains, and that is certainly good news for Brooks Brothers' parent company, Marks & Spencer. Forecasts are that the six-month M&S figures, due tomorrow, will show Brooks Brothers has continued the healthy trend of the financial year that ended last March, when its operating profit was up more than 80 per cent to \$16.9 million after a loss of \$4 million in the first half of the year.

But Brooks Brothers still probably falls short of the profitability Marks & Spencer had in mind when it bought the venerable clothing chain for \$750 million eight years ago.

Until recently, Brooks Brothers was sagging. It had stayed aloof from the volatile and highly competitive US fashion market. Its branches retained the somewhat intimidating atmosphere of a club for old fogies. Some sales staff were snooty towards would-be customers who wandered in wearing jeans and trainers.

The company watched the American vogue for dress-down Fridays pass it by, disdaining to promote the stylishly casual clothes that became acceptable in many workplaces. Maintaining inventory was a scatter-shot affair. Choice of products was meagre. Faithful customers joked that they could have any colour of dress shirt they wanted, provided it was blue or white.

The situation was so bad that Brooks Brothers staff were worried that Marks & Spencer would cut the company adrift, leaving it to sink. It was a gloomy time for a firm that was synonymous with refinement and still enjoyed an enviable reputation for offering conservative clothing to a fastidious clientele that included some of the best-known and best-dressed men of their time.

When Henry Brooks opened for business in lower Manhattan in 1818 he promised quality merchandise for customers who would seek out and appreciate its value. Little else is



Brooks Brothers' Madison Avenue store and famous clients, clockwise from top left, Clark Gable, Gary Cooper, Fred Astaire and Cary Grant

known about Brooks, other than a story about Brooks, other than a story about Brooks. But when his four sons inherited the business they changed its name to Brooks Brothers and agreed to follow their father's philosophy. Their designs caught on quickly. In 1965, President Abraham Lincoln wore a Brooks Brothers frock coat to his second inauguration and, again, five weeks later, when he was assassinated.

Vanderbills, Rockefellers, Astors and Morgans were among the tycoons

culture that was not moving with the times. As he admits, Brooks Brothers had older customers it wanted to keep, but it was not addressing the issue of how to attract younger customers. In the inevitable shake-up, a new management team was installed under a new chief executive, Joe Gromek, who was poached from another big retailer.

The Littmoden-Gromek team focused on three areas. First, they improved product lines, introducing new shirts and ties in lime greens, lilacs and pinks. With the help of Marks & Spencer, they found fabrics that would wear better and last longer. They softened the silhouette of the Brooks Brothers suit and gave it a tighter weave so that travel creases would fall out more easily.

Secondly, they tackled service. Sales staff were retrained to be more customer-friendly and were taught to suggest ties and shirts to go with a suit as a way of increasing the items sold per transaction. The shops were also made more light and airy. Thirdly, merchandise availability was overhauled with the establishment of a central distribution centre and a guarantee to replace within 48 hours.

Separate management teams were created for each of the company's four profit centres: the chain of retail shops in the US which, with eight new openings since May, now numbers 69, up from 50 when Marks & Spencer took over; the 41 so-called factory outlet stores, mostly in holiday venues, which sell cheaper merchandise; the direct-mail business; and the Brooks Brothers chain in Japan and South Korea.

Revamping an icon was not easy and is far from finished. Mr Littmoden said: "We're not 100 per cent there yet, but we're 1,000 per cent better than we were."

Much more attention must be paid to women's clothes, still treated as an afterthought. The catalogue needs work if it is to compete with the urbane and appealing publications of Lands' End and other US direct-mail giants. Brooks Brothers must also venture into more aggressive advertising.

There was understandable nervousness that the company's core market of loyal shoppers would be upset by change. By and large they were not. It turns out that many of today's old fogies no longer want to dress like old fogies.

Delving into the company's archives, the new team was surprised to discover that Brooks Brothers has a history of innovation, without fear of new colours and patterns. This year's popular ties with horizontal stripes were found in a Brooks Brothers catalogue of 50 years ago. The company pioneered the two-button suit in 1961, wash-and-wear suits in 1953, three-button suits in 1930 and, most famously of all, button-down shirts as long ago as 1896.

This precedent of setting fashion, rather than following it, ought to be a mantra for Brooks Brothers if recent gains are to be sustained. There could even be an unexpected advantage for the parent company. Wendy Liebmann, a retail analyst with WSL Marketing in New York, says that Brooks Brothers' merchandise is now sufficiently unstuffy to be shipped across the Atlantic to live up to the sales racks of Marks & Spencer, which she reckons has lost its design edge.

Lord Alexander on the location of the Oxford business school

Why management must win the day

TODAY Oxford University's Congregation will vote on whether the university's new business school should be allocated a central site for a prestigious new building. I hope for the sake of the university's credibility and Britain's competitiveness that the Pawkes tendency does not gain the upper hand.

Oxford has traditionally viewed business as a poor relation to the learned professions. But attitudes are changing rapidly and it is now widely recognised in the university that Britain needs business and management skills of the very highest quality if it is to prosper in the even more competitive world of the next century. The standard of business leadership in this country is already rising with the current generation of 45 to 55-year-old chief executives, such as Robert Ayling of British Airways, Niall Fitzgerald of Unilever, Martin Taylor of Barclays, Derek Wanless of NatWest and Bob Wilson of RITZ. But we have to look beyond them and prepare their successors. It is not clear that Britain or indeed Europe is yet adequately equipped to do that.

Business schools in the US have long been powerhouses of that country's conspicuous economic success. They have been — and continue to be — buttressed by generous individual donations in the great tradition of US philanthropy. America turns out some 75,000 MBAs each year. Aside from Insead, LBS and IMD in Lausanne, Europe does not have business schools of international repute on a par with the best American schools.

To its credit, Oxford has recognised the challenge and decided it wants to have a business school to match the world's best. In reaching that decision, it has set out to make the most of Oxford's strengths. In 1988 a committee, chaired by Sir Claus Moser, the distinguished educationalist, recommended that the university should make a major commitment to the field of management education. He described management studies as a "meeting point" for important academic disciplines which can be studied rigorously in relation to each other while being related to real world issues. He is right. Management studies should not exist in a vacuum. It is crucial that they be fully integrated into the university.



Oxford has traditionally viewed business as a poor relation to the learned professions

start has already been made with the School of Management, with close links to Templeton College. But Oxford is now moving into the next phase. An excellent business school faculty is being created, led as director by Professor John Kay. He brings a rare double of significant success in both the academic and business world.

But if the vision of a world-class business school is to be fully realised, the school must have a clear identity and presence of its own. That translates into a need for a substantial

state-of-the-art building and a central location, to emphasise its position at the heart of the university. As a latecomer in a highly competitive field of business studies, Oxford has to make the most of what it has to offer if it wants to attract the best. A central site is a key part of that. A fringe location would give the impression that the university regards business studies as a fringe activity.

Now the university also has the funds — or most of them — needed to proceed, thanks to the £20 million gift from Wafic Said, an established benefactor of Oxford and the Royal Shakespeare Company. It is one of the single most generous private donations to British education. Taken with the £8 million the university itself has already raised, it should ensure that the business school has a building commensurate with its ambitions. An architectural competition

has been held and a leading British partnership has submitted the winning design.

The decision to be taken by Congregation today is the last internal hurdle which the university has to cross: that is allocating the central site which the school needs. The proposal put forward involves building on a playing field — though in the midst of existing college and faculty buildings. I can understand why some members of the university will only agree to this sacrifice with a heavy heart. But if the proposal were to fail, it would be a slap in the face to the university's leadership, which has championed the cause of a business school with vision and commitment. And especially in the aftermath of the Flick affair, it would badly, perhaps irretrievably, damage the university's ability to attract private donors in future.

The business school will bring benefits not just to the university but to the City of Oxford and its surrounds. If it succeeds in establishing an international reputation, the likelihood is that more businesses will locate in Oxford, just as Cambridge has attracted science-based businesses and research bodies. That has been the experience of many American business schools.

As a trustee and a keen supporter of the foundation formed to support the school, I believe a positive decision today will give a dramatic boost to management studies in this country and will best serve the interests of both the university and the City of Oxford.

Lord Alexander of Weedon is chairman of NatWest and a trustee of the Said Business School Foundation



Strong pound? No problem

Sterling soars: officials welcome the stronger pound; exporters say they can cope. Haven't we been here before?

Only five years ago, before Britain left the ERM, the economy was in a parlous state. The Treasury and Bank of England told us that if we broke the fixed link with the mark and opted for a lower exchange rate, inflation and interest rates would rise and there would be no lasting gain in real output. Most forecasters and dealers agreed.

Soon after we came out, however, the economy improved, inflation and interest rates fell. Output grew and unemployment began falling. Exports were in the vanguard of the recovery. Can anyone seriously suggest anything like this would have been possible without the shift to a much lower exchange rate?

Yet here we are again, gradually, willingly, giving up the competitive pound that has brought so many advantages. Since the start of the year, sterling has risen by 9 per cent on its trade-weighted index, by 11 per cent against the mark and by 16 per cent against the yen.

We are told exporters "can cope with" a strong pound, pushing DM£250, and that changes of 10 per cent in the rate this year don't really matter. A strange view that sees a quarter per cent change in interest rates as very significant but dismisses a 10 per cent change in exchange rates.

It should come as no surprise that many exporters say that they "can cope with" the current exchange rate. The ones who are there to give answers are those who have survived the various onslaughts of the last 20 years (and before). The ones who could not cope have withdrawn or gone bust.

Moreover, conditioned by their experience to expect the worst, the survivors have limited their operations to the grossly profitable. No bold forays into new markets, no extra capacity to increase output for overseas sales. These are the firms which, when faced with a super-competitive pound after we left the ERM, were tempted to enjoy a nice increase in margins rather than fight for a larger market share.

Is it any wonder? They have learned from bitter experience that under this Government,

the battle against inflation puts them in the trenches, while consumers, like First World War generals, live it up in their chateaux well behind the lines.

For the current official attitude to sterling is nothing new. In 1979-81, the pound soared to ridiculous levels, accompanied by a strange mixture of official indifference and encouragement. Large parts of manufacturing were wiped out. In the economic recovery of the 1980s, manufacturing staged a revival but when the effects of the consumer boom had to be quelled, the authorities encourage sterling higher and then locked-in the high rate by joining the ERM. Then they clung on to the over-valued rate even as the economy teetered on the brink of collapse.

In fact the authorities were following a still older tradition. In 1925, they had tried to beat wages down by returning to the Gold Standard at the old parity. In 1964-7 they desperately clung on to an overvalued pound.

You might think that the current apparent lack of official concern about competitiveness is due to the extra-strong performance of our trading companies. But you would be wrong. Britain will record a current account deficit this year, the 11th in succession.

But haven't the Germans and Japanese done well by having strong currencies, I hear you ask? No, their post-war success story is one of operating with under-valued currencies which were allowed to appreciate behind the underlying improvement in productivity, thereby creating a favourable dynamic.

What can the Chancellor do about the strong pound? Go easy on rate rises — and on tax cuts. Whether last week's rate rise will prove to be justified, and whether rates have to go higher still, will partly depend on whether Mr Clarke gives large tax cuts in the Budget. If he does, we could be in for another bout of super-strong sterling. Anyone with a care for Britain's future, will hope he refrains.

Roger Bootle is Chief Economist of the HSBC Group. His book, *The Death of Inflation*, was published recently by Nicholas Brealey. Janet Bush is on holiday

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Trial result hits British Biotech share price

By FRASER NELSON

THE latest results from the clinical trials of British Biotech's anti-cancer drug disappointed the stock market yesterday, prompting a fall in the company's share price from 239p to 207p.

British Biotech said the results showed that Marimastat, a potential blockbuster, was still making strong progress. But some investors wanted more solid news.

The new data included the first results from treating gastric cancer. Four out of 14 patients treated with Marimastat showed firm signs of recovery, as their blood cells produced a protective shield against the cancer. A further trial involving 300 gastric cancer patients is about to begin.

The tests also found that

Marimastat produced a positive response among victims of colorectal cancer. For the first time, the tests showed a relationship between use of the drug and survival rates of its patients, James Noble, British Biotech's finance director, said. "The results are as encouraging as we could have hoped at this stage."

However, some analysts expressed concern that most of the tests gauged the progression of the disease by measuring the level of cancer-specific antigens. While there is a high correlation between the levels of antigens and of cancer, British Biotech cannot use antigen data for its licensing submission. The company itself said that the tests were not conducted in accordance with guidelines laid down by the US Food & Drug Administration. It said the results should be treated with caution.

However, Mr Noble said the results had underlined the logic behind the company's £145 million rights issue in July. He said: "When we raised the money in July, we forecast that we would have started three phase three tests by the end of the year. We have now started four."

The next stage of the Marimastat tests will use the survival rate of its patients as a yardstick of the drug's effectiveness. The phase three tests, the results of which are not expected until 1998, will monitor two groups of patients — one treated with the real drug while another is given dummy pills. The tests are dubbed "double blind" experiments, as neither patients nor doctors will be aware which group is being given the real medicine.

If Marimastat secures official approval, it is estimated that its annual sales could reach \$1 billion by the turn of the century. In the year to April 30, British Biotech made a loss of £25.1 million.



Bad timing: Peter Thornton, Greycoat chief executive, says it is too early to sell its assets

Directors face charges in Torras £500m fraud case

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

THE case involving one of the biggest financial scandals of the decade in Spain, involving the £1 billion bankruptcy of Torras, the company handling Kuwaiti investments in Spain, has been reopened by Manuel Garcia Castellon, an investigating judge in the national court.

Working on the order of Carlos Jimenez Villarejo, the new anti-corruption prosecutor, the judge has given the Treasury and La Caixa bank in Barcelona a fortnight to produce key documents. Seven former directors of the

Torras Group, which undertook investments for the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) in London before the Gulf War, face charges of falsifying mercantile documents and prices, fraud, misappropriation and tax avoidance. They are: Javier de la Rosa, Narciso de Mir, Jorge Nuñez, Juan José Folchi, Miguel Soler, Fahad al Sabah and Fouad Jafar.

Around £500 million disappeared from the Torras accounts at the time of the Gulf War. Javier de la Rosa, the Torras agent in Spain, claims

the money was used to bribe senior figures in Western countries to get their countries' support for Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion. But the prosecution alleges the money was stolen through a labyrinth of offshore companies. The case had been delayed because Miguel Moreiras, a national court judge, was suspended for alleged corrupt practices.

Greycoat counters portfolio sale plan

By CARL MORTIMER

GREYCOAT has launched a counter-offensive against a proposal from UK Active Value, its main investor, to liquidate its property portfolio. The central London property group said the proposed "closing down sale" was flawed and would fail to secure shareholder value.

Greycoat yesterday forecast a 50 per cent rise in the annual dividend to 12p per share on a 123 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax profits to £3.8 million. UKAV has requisitioned a meeting on November 14 to vote on the proposed sell-off.

Peter Thornton, Greycoat chief executive, said UKAV's proposal was badly timed and investors would miss out on growth just as City office rents were beginning to rise. Greycoat's main asset is the £200 million Embankment Place office development above Charing Cross station.

Let to Coopers & Lybrand at £45 per sq ft, the property is well above current rental values of about £30 in the area. Mr Thornton thinks it will be 18 months before the property will be saleable as a growth investment and added a liquidation of the portfolio would depress prices.

"At the right time and in the right way we will seek to dispose of it. What he is trying to do is the wrong thing — at the start of a rental growth cycle."

UKAV currently owns about 10 per cent of Greycoat, a shareholding which it acquired when the property group was rescued from insolvency three years ago. Brian Myerson of UKAV left the board this year when UKAV challenged Greycoat's decision to sell the Buckingham Palace Road property.

Mr Myerson said that UKAV had no intention of selling its investment which he calculated was worth 185p per share. He challenged Greycoat's desire to wait before selling. "Why wait until the top of the market?"

Tempos, page 30
City Diary, page 31

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Emirates places \$2bn order with Airbus

EMIRATES, the Middle East airline, has placed a \$2 billion order with Airbus Industrie, the European aircraft manufacturer, for 16 new A330-200 aircraft, making the airline Airbus's biggest customer for the wide body jet. Emirates has an option for a further seven aircraft. Airbus won the contract in competition with Boeing's 767 jets.

Emirates said that it had not yet decided whether engines would be supplied by Rolls-Royce, of Britain, or General Electric Company of America. Emirates will use the A330s on non-stop services from Dubai to Europe, South-East Asia and South Africa. Each aircraft will seat 243 passengers in a three-class layout, or 272 passengers in a two-class configuration. Airbus is a consortium made up of Aerospatiale, of France; British Aerospace; Daimler-Benz of Germany; and Construcciones Aeronauticas, of Spain. Airbus Industrie's sales reached \$9.6 billion in 1995.

Shearings buyout talks

RANK ORGANISATION, the leisure group, has entered exclusive talks to sell Shearings, its coach holiday business, to a management buyout team backed by NatWest Ventures, the venture capitalist. In July Rank said it was seeking a buyer for the coach holiday business as part of plans to dispose of non-core activities. Angus Crichton-Miller, the former managing director of the holiday division, resigned from the board so that he could prepare an offer. Analysts believe the sale could raise up to £60 million.

Dudley stake sale

DUDLEY STATIONERY, the UK's largest independent office products dealer, has agreed to sell a significant minority stake to US Office Products, of Washington DC. Existing Dudley shareholders will control 51 per cent of the company. The American company is to invest £50 million by way of debt finance. The new funds will be used to fuel the expansion of Dudley Stationery by both organic growth and acquisitions. Since its inception, in October 1994, USOP has made 107 acquisitions and has annual sales of £1.6 billion.

Disposals at Bullough

BULLOUGH, the industrial holding company, is raising £10.75 million through disposals. The company is selling its Remor industrial warm air heating business to Thomas & Bets Inc., which already owns Remor in the United States, for about £9.75 million. In the year to October 31, 1995, operating profits were £898,000 on turnover of £13.17 million. Results for 1996 are expected to be similar. Bullough is also selling Hago Products, its consumer and industrial wire products business, for about £1 million.

Merlin cancer move

MERLIN VENTURES, the investment company, recently formed by Chris Evans, the biotechnology entrepreneur, has provided £250,000 of start-up finance to develop discoveries made by scientists working for the Cancer Research Campaign. Ciyacel, a company formed by Professor David Lane of the University of Dundee and Professor Allan Balmrain of the University of Glasgow, is working on "a potentially revolutionary" approach to common cancer treatment.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION — THE TIMES

WIN A £1,700 CHRISTMAS BREAK IN VENICE



With *The Times*, readers have the chance to win one of a series of competitions as well as take advantage of exclusive offers to worldwide destinations, in association with Cox & Kings, one of Britain's leading travel companies.

In the second of six competitions this week, you have the chance to win a Christmas break for two in Venice. The winner and a partner of this superb mini holiday, worth £1,770, will stay at the spectacular Danieli Hotel above, a sumptuous Gothic palace which has been receiving guests for more than 150 years.

The oldest part of the hotel is adorned with huge mirrors, gilt furniture, splendid pictures and marble. And the Danieli's rooftop features a restaurant with some of Venice's finest views.

You can attend Midnight Mass at the Basilica of St Mark's, one of the most breathtaking

cathedrals in the world or join a Church of England mass at the nearby church of St George on Christmas Day.

The winner will travel on Christmas Eve and return on December 27, 1996. The prize includes return flights, transfers, three nights' five-star accommodation with buffet breakfast, Christmas Eve gala dinner, a tour of the city by boat on Boxing Day, free entrance to the casino and a public transport pass.

HOW TO ENTER

Call 0891 414 481 before midnight tonight with your answer to this question:

Venice is closest to which sea?

a) Mediterranean b) Adriatic c) Aegean

The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received. Normal TNL rules apply.

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CHANGING TIMES

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

BUSINESS FOR SALE

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LARGE Garden centre opportunity approximately 5 acres. Freshwater. Great site. South side. Tel: 0115 945 2727.

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SPRING. London. West. London. Well established. 22 years. Tel: 0115 945 2727.

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Network. Your local business opportunity.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

Equities and gilts lose ground

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

BANKS

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

BUILDING MATERIALS

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

CHEMICALS

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

DISTRIBUTORS

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

ELECTRICITY

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

ENGINEERING

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

HEALTHCARE

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

INSURANCE

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

LEISURE & HOTELS

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

MEDIA

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

MINING

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

OIL & GAS

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

OTHER FINANCIAL

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

RETAILERS, FOOD

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

SUPPORT SERVICES

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

TEXTILES & APPAREL

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

TRANSPORT

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

WATER

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

BRITISH FUNDS

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E



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1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

LONGS (over 15 years)

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

UNLISTED

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

INDEX-TRACKED

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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PHARMACEUTICALS

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PRINTING & PAPER

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PROPERTY

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1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

RETAILERS, GENERAL

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West End set for a sparkling sale

From Baskerville to Izaak Walton, you should find an antique book to suit you at Chelsea, says **Jim McCue**

The Chelsea Book Fair, now in its sixth year, will be held at the Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road, London, SW3 on Friday and Saturday this week and may be a good place to begin the Christmas browsing.

The way to approach a book fair is not with a list of books that you hope to find and buy, nor even with a budget, but with an interested eye. There will always be something you have never seen before, a surprise, a book you have not heard of, or something you had given up hope of finding. Just looking at books and handling them is a way of learning about the people who wrote, made and owned them, even if you do not buy. Not everyone, after all, has room for the 24-volume Nonesuch Dickens (£5,000 from Broadhursts).

The variety of books is remarkable, from what the trade calls "roast beef" — classic literature, library editions, leather-bound sets — to modern novels, erotica, gardening, travel and every other human interest.

So do not go looking for things; just go looking. Seren-

dity will provide. And when it does, you will know what to buy, even if you had no idea you wanted it beforehand. I recently bought an extraordinary book about a Renaissance pattern maker, beautifully printed with colour specimens at the Royal College of Art and bound in "Jacquard

'Among the 16th-century books is the first history of Wales'

woven" gold cloth. I could never have expected that, or imagined it, and I have yet to decide whether it is hideous. The famous books, such as *The Jungle Book* and *The Second Jungle Book*, offered together by Elizabeth Gant, are never going to be overlooked or underpriced (£1,000, bound by Baynton's). But because no dealer can know every book, even in a limited field, there are always bargains for the buyer with more specialist knowledge — or a bit

of luck. Last year I bought a copy of *Death of a Naturalist*, Seamus Heaney's first book, with the all-important dust-jacket. It is the second impression (which saved me £100 or so), but is signed and dated by the poet, who, to my gratification, won a Nobel prize shortly afterwards.

The earliest books, printed before 1501, are known as incunabula, from the Latin *cunae*, cradle, yet they are anything but immature. The first printers had to live up to the standards of the old scribes and illuminators, and produced some of the most magnificent of all books. The Gutenberg Bible of 1455 is the earliest substantial printed book, and is regarded as perhaps the greatest of all (if there is one at Chelsea, it's a facsimile). Among the 16th-century books at Chelsea will be the first printed history of Wales, Powell's *History of Cambria, Now called Wales*, in the original vellum binding. This will be on the stand of Dylan's Bookstore, which also has a series of letters from Dylan Thomas to his parents. Collecting samples of the work of great printers and publishers of the past makes



Oscar Berger's pencil caricature of Churchill is offered at Chelsea by Chas J. Sawyer (£1,250); while Bernard Shapero has an 1836 first edition *History of the Indian Tribes of North America* (£40,000), with coloured paintings

for a good chase and the exercise of discrimination. If you cannot afford Aldus, Baskerville and Pickering, who are their successors? Early Penguins are sought after. Or perhaps the Oxford and Cambridge presses, the Folio Soc-

ety or today's private press books might take your fancy? Among the 80 stands at Chelsea there will be letters and documents relating to all the kings and queens of England from Elizabeth I to Elizabeth II (Sophie Dupre), first edi-



tions of Jane Austen's *Emma*, £4,500 (Jardyco) or £4,250 (Graham York) — condition is everything. For the serious leishist, there is a copy of T. Watson Grieg's *Ladies Old-Fashioned Shoes*, 1885, at just £2,500 (Biltcliffe). The

Petersfield Bookshop will have the rare second edition of Izaak Walton's *Compleat Angler*, 1627, and Nigel Traylen will have a first of Mrs Beeton. But I shall be looking out for what I wasn't expecting, and I hope you will be, too.

Snips from pages of the past

A book fair is a peaceful place to buy presents, and they need not be expensive.

At Chelsea, for example, for £20 you can pick up the Victorian *Helping the Travellers: Knitting Patterns to Keep Deep Sea Fishermen Warm* (S.K. Biltcliffe), with a redoubtable old knitter on the cover. On the same lines, there is *Cycling and Shooting Knickerbocker Stockings* by H.P. Ryder (£125, Gresham Books).

Children's books are in plentiful supply. McNaughton's of Edinburgh are offering *Happy Hours with Mamma*, from 1835, with steel-engraved illustrations, for £15. Pop-up books from the 1880s onwards will be at Chelsea at Harrington Brothers. Elizabeth Gant and Eamice & Clifford Fox. Those from the 1940s and 1950s are often less than £100.

For rather more — £1,250 — an 1877 watercolour of a steamboat is available from Clive Farahar & Sophie Dupre. The painter? The future King George V.

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■ VISUAL ART 1

One of a gender: work by 37 women artists goes on show at the Whitechapel



■ VISUAL ART 2

... while the musical portraits of another woman, Milein Cosman, are exhibited in London

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ VISUAL ART 3

... and the capital also sees some of the splendid bowls created by Claudi Casanovas



■ CD CHOICE

Dame Janet Baker proves to be a matchless exponent on disc of Duparc's exquisite songs

Never call them the gentler sex

Richard Cork
on the many facets of the 37 female artists on show in the capital

Now in London, at the end of an international tour that started in Belgium last year, the all-women exhibition *Inside the Visible* presents a highly diverse array of 37 artists both living and dead. Celebrated reputations are reinforced, from Hannah Hoch in the 1920s to Louise Bourgeois, surely the most venerated of contemporary women artists. But less familiar names are included as well, from countries beyond the well-worn European-North American circuit, and the overall mood is far from complacent.

The selection opts for coolness and investigative intimacy, nowhere more so than in the opening section, where the female body becomes the focus of close-up scrutiny. The images are not reassuring. Claude Cahun, whose gender-bending Surrealist photographs are a fascinating rediscovery of recent years, seems to change her persona at will. Bourgeois may concentrate on pregnant women in her full-length bronzes of the late 1940s, but they are this spectral and often painted white.

At one point, Carrie Mae Weems appears to offer consolation with her gently swollen caskets arranged on a shelf. Open them up, though, and hushed yet urgent voices are activated within the velvet-lined interiors. One monologue speaks of the fall from grace in Eden, while elsewhere Martha Rosler makes sure that even the most affluent Western home is invaded by anxiety. Using photomontage, at the height of the Vietnam War, she shows an impeccable living room giving out on to a landscape festooned with corpses. Rather older — in fact dating from the early 1940s — Charlotte Salomon's book *Life? Or Theatre?* is a visual autobiography, 200 or so pages of pictures and interlinked text.

Some of the most powerful works take the body away from the domestic scene altogether. In a blurred, jerky video and a series of colour photographs, Ana Mendota documents the traces she has left in the countryside. They are obsessed with death. Sometimes, flowers lie scattered on the beach, like the remnants of a burial at sea. More often, expanses of earth or snow are imprinted with the outline of a reclining figure, as if the traces of a murder, suicide or accident had been discovered there.

Men scarcely make an appearance in this show. And when they do, their bodies are no less vulnerable than women's. In Jana Sterbak's video *Condition*, a man appears trapped by the cage-like structure he carries on his back, panning with futile exertion. Significantly, though, he



One of the pages from Charlotte Salomon's "visual autobiography" *Life? Or Theatre?*

seems more helpless than many of his female counterparts. The cut-out figure hanging on Nancy Spero's washing-line sculpture, next to assorted bras and knickers, could have seemed self-pitying. But she grins, and her air suggests that she might soon be capable of escaping from her undignified perch.

As the show proceeds, so the human presence becomes increasingly fugitive. The first space encountered upstairs is occupied by Mona Hatoum's *Recollection*, an elegiac installation where balls of brown hair are dotted across the floor. Moving gingerly through them, I found myself walking into tendrils dangling down like threads from the ceiling. But the tendrils did not bring me any closer to the people they evoked. On the contrary: they reinforce a sense of loss, as if these fragile wisps were all that survived of otherwise unrecorded victims.

The young American Ellen Gallagher also deals with absence. Scattered among the grids dominating her paintings float disembodied eyes and mouths, taken from 19th-century stereotyped portraits of black Americans. They look at once teasing and melancholy, hinting at individuals whose existence has otherwise been forgotten.

The use of the grids in Gallagher's work can be compared with Agnes Martin's painting near by. Her pale grey grid is far more ordered and pure, refusing to rely on figurative references at all. There is a palpable tension, in this part of the show, between depiction of the observable world and the search for abstraction.

Emily Carr's paintings are bursting with forms unmistakably identifiable as the forests of her native Canada. Vieira da Silva, on the other hand, dissolves everything into delicate linear webs of light and shadow.

The restlessness of her ever-shifting paintings acts as a prelude to the final section, where mobility takes over. Sophie Taeuber-Arp celebrates vivacity at its most exuberant in her perpetually looping, whirling, coloured pencil drawings. Far more alive than her disappointingly inert painted reliefs on the next wall, they sum up the prevailing spirit of resilience in the last room.

Disquieting forms can still be found: Eva Hesse's *Addendum*, a papier mâché wall-sculpture painted grey, gains much of its power from the cords dangling ominously from breast-shapes to end up coiled on the floor. In general,

though, the mood of the final section is optimistic.

Meanwhile a spare, limpid and seductive exhibition at the Lisson Gallery marks the first one-person show in Britain by the distinguished Korean artist Lee Ufan. Long admired elsewhere in the world, he is surprisingly unfamiliar here. But his Zen-inspired paintings have an immediate appeal. Ever since he played a major role in the Mono-ha group, a Japanese avant-garde movement that won international recognition in the late 1960s, Ufan has created an abstract world. A decade ago, the titles of his series *From Wind and With Wind* indicated how keenly he responded to elements of nature in the outside world. But their densely crowded brushmarks have given way, in the more recent *Correspondence* paintings, to a radically purged approach.

A few brushstrokes are now surrounded by expanses of whiteness on every large canvas, where they hover and seem completely at one with each other. Harmony and stillness are generated by this charged, meditative work. Ufan's paintings are very far removed from Western ideas about representation, but there are many similarities between his work and minimalism in both Europe and America.

Inside the Visible at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London E1 (0171-522 7888) until Dec 8; Lee Ufan at the Lisson Gallery, Lisson Street, London NW1 (0171-734 2739) until Nov 16

THE name of Milein Cosman is probably better known in the world of music than of art, because her specialisation is drawing portraits of musicians. Anyone whose memory goes back to the golden age of drawn illustration in *Radio Times* will at once recognise the style: these fluent, improvisatory drawings, so adept at catching the musician in the process of making music, are comparable only with the work of Feliks Topolski, another émigré who arrived here in the 1930s.

Cosman has now just turned 75, and the occasion is marked by a drawing retrospective at the Belgrave Gallery, which shows her to be as acute at portraying Peter Maxwell Davies and the late Bernhard Goldschmidt in the 1990s as she was at pinning down Bruno Walter and Wilhelm Furtwängler in the 1940s. Belgrave Gallery, 53 England's Lane, NW3 (0171-722 5150) until November 22

AS a teacher at leading art schools from 1954 to 1986, when he retired as Professor of Painting at the Royal College, Peter de Francia has been immensely influential on generations of students, though he has taught few to draw with his own passion and preci-

AROUND THE GALLERIES

sion. And still, in his seventies, he does it: the new show consists of work from the past three years. The paintings still have the spiky quality and curious viewpoints which characterised his work in the 1950s. Austin/Desmond Fine Art, Pied Bull Yard, WC1 (0171-242 4443) until November 28

THE Catalan potter Claudi Casanovas is famous worldwide for making huge pieces which maintain only a notional connection with ceramics as functional objects. His enormous bowls seem always to be on the point of dissolution. You could be forgiven for wondering whether wind and water rather than the hand of man have produced these seemingly haphazard shapes.

It is therefore unexpected to find that Casanovas's latest show is disarmingly titled *Teabowls*. Can this most unfunctional of potters, this specialist in size, actually be confining himself to the small and exquisite form of the teabowl *la japonaise*? Well, yes and no.

Though these works began by being thrown on the wheel, it might as well have been wind and weather that did the shaping. And yet these splendidly liberated pieces still observe the scale and convention.

Galerie Besson, 15 Royal Arcade, W1 (0171-491 1706) until November 22

THOUGH still only in his mid-thirties, Ansel Krut looks to be in danger of founding a school. His particular reinterpretation of Old Masters like Velázquez and Goya, seen through a glass darkly so that the result sometimes looks a little like Mervyn Peake, is so idiosyncratic and compelling that quite a number of even younger artists are doing likewise. But Krut's latest show indicates that there is no acceptable substitute. Many of the pictures are bigger than seen hitherto, and several refer directly to classical myth, not to mention the more modern myth of Casanova. The eroticism just beneath the surface is more marked; the colours are as muted and as finely calculated as ever.

Jason and Rhodes, 4 New Burlington Place, W1 (0171-434 1768) until Nov 30

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR



James Seymour (c.1702-1752). *Turpin, a Bay Racehorse with a Groom on a Racecourse*, signed and inscribed, oil on canvas, 61 by 75cm. Estimate: £40,000-60,000. To be sold in London on 13th November.

OPPORTUNITIES TO BUY IN NOVEMBER

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- 13th ♦ November British Paintings 1500-1850. The Racing Sale. Fine and Rare Wines, Spirits and Vintage Port. Japanese Works of Art, Prints and Paintings (continues on 14th November).
- 14th ♦ November 18th and 19th Century British Drawings and Watercolours.
- 15th ♦ November Important English Furniture.
- 18th ♦ November 18th Century Saucers from the Andreine Torre Collection.
- 19th ♦ November English and Continental Ceramics and Glass.
- 20th ♦ November 19th Century European Paintings Drawings and Watercolours. Important 19th Century Pictures from a Private Collection. Toys, Dolls, Automata & Chess Sets.
- 21st ♦ November Early Musical Instruments.
- 25th ♦ November Illustrated and Children's Books and Related Drawings. Important Collectors Cars, Motorcycles and Automobilia (RAF Museum, Hendon).
- 26th ♦ November 19th and 20th Century Sculpture. Natural History, Atlases and Travel Books.
- 27th ♦ November Modern British and Irish Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture.

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- 18th ♦ November European Silver.
- 19th ♦ November Objects of Vertu, Russian Works of Art and Fabergé.
- 20th ♦ November Magnificent Jewels.

All dates subject to change

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HENRI DUPARC SONGS

Reviewed by Gordon Stewart

THE perceived image of Henri Duparc is of an ogre who ate his children: he destroyed all of his music apart from 13 songs and a few short pieces.

The 12 core songs are available from three distinguished Frenchmen of the past. Camille Maurane is vocally the best of them. Recorded in the 1950s, with excellent support from pianist Lily Bienenven, his performances shine with a natural sensitivity. His Duparc is part of a two-CD set with other excellent things in it, not all from him (Philips 438 970-2). Charles Panzera's performances from the early 1930s have powerful historical interest, somewhat limited by his wife's occasional lapses at the piano (EMI CDH7 64254-2). Gérard Souzay's deeply un-

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

derstanding interpretations sit in a four-CD nest among song-cycles by Fauré, Ravel, Poulenc. It is a luxurious way of buying Duparc (Philips 438 964-2).

Two newer CDs offer the composer *tout net*, with the three extra songs and a duet resurrected from Duparc's bonfire. Both have excellent pianists, both share out the 17 songs between two singers. Noel Lee plays for the French team. Martine Mahé has immediate appeal and character; Vincent Le Texier's bass tone is never so suitable (Pierre Verany PV 793061). Roger Vignoles leads the British forces: Thomas Allen is ideal-



ly suited to this music and Sarah Walker is lovely in quiet singing, characteristically grainy and uninhibited in

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times CD Mail to 250 Western Avenue, London W3 6XZ or freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk

Next Saturday on Radio 3 (6am): A Joan Sutherland Survey.



CHOICE 1

Peter Whelan's 'Shakespeare' play, *The Herbal Bed*, comes to London

VENUE: Opens tonight at the Barbican Pit



CHOICE 2

... while Jane Lapotaire also raids the Bard for her one-woman show

VENUE: In preview at the New Vic, Bristol

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE

The charm of Edward Albee's *Seascape* makes up for its lack of deeper qualities



MUSIC

John Eliot Gardiner strikes up a sparky relationship with the Concertgebouw

LONDON

ENTERTAINMENT Plan of the American Independent series at the Festival Hall, the concert by a leading new-music ensemble is conducted by Richard Pittman. Music is by three of America's most original composers: Henry Brant, Charles Wuorikainen and Conlon Nancarrow. With Richard Jackson, baritone.

THE HERBAL BED Peter Whelan's striking exploration of a true incident in the life of Shakespeare's daughter, Mal, is a play of wit and wit. Mal, a young woman, is a play of wit and wit. Mal, a young woman, is a play of wit and wit. Mal, a young woman, is a play of wit and wit.

THE LEGEND OF PERICLES James Roscoe's director, his adaptation of Shakespeare's late play, a tale of shipwreck, search and discovery. Justin Butler (Pericles) and Justin Butler (Pericles) is a play of wit and wit. Justin Butler (Pericles) is a play of wit and wit. Justin Butler (Pericles) is a play of wit and wit.

ELSEWHERE Jane Lapotaire, due to play *Catherine of Aragon* at Stratford later in the month.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Mackay

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Beached coma

Any play in which, just before the interval, two large green lizards waddle on to the stage and scrutinise its human occupants deserves high points for imagination. Shortly afterwards, the frightening sound of a low-flying jet causes them to bob out of sight behind a boulder. At this point in an American production a member of the audience cried "Don't go!", and certainly these inquisitive saurians give a needed edge to the evening.

THEATRE

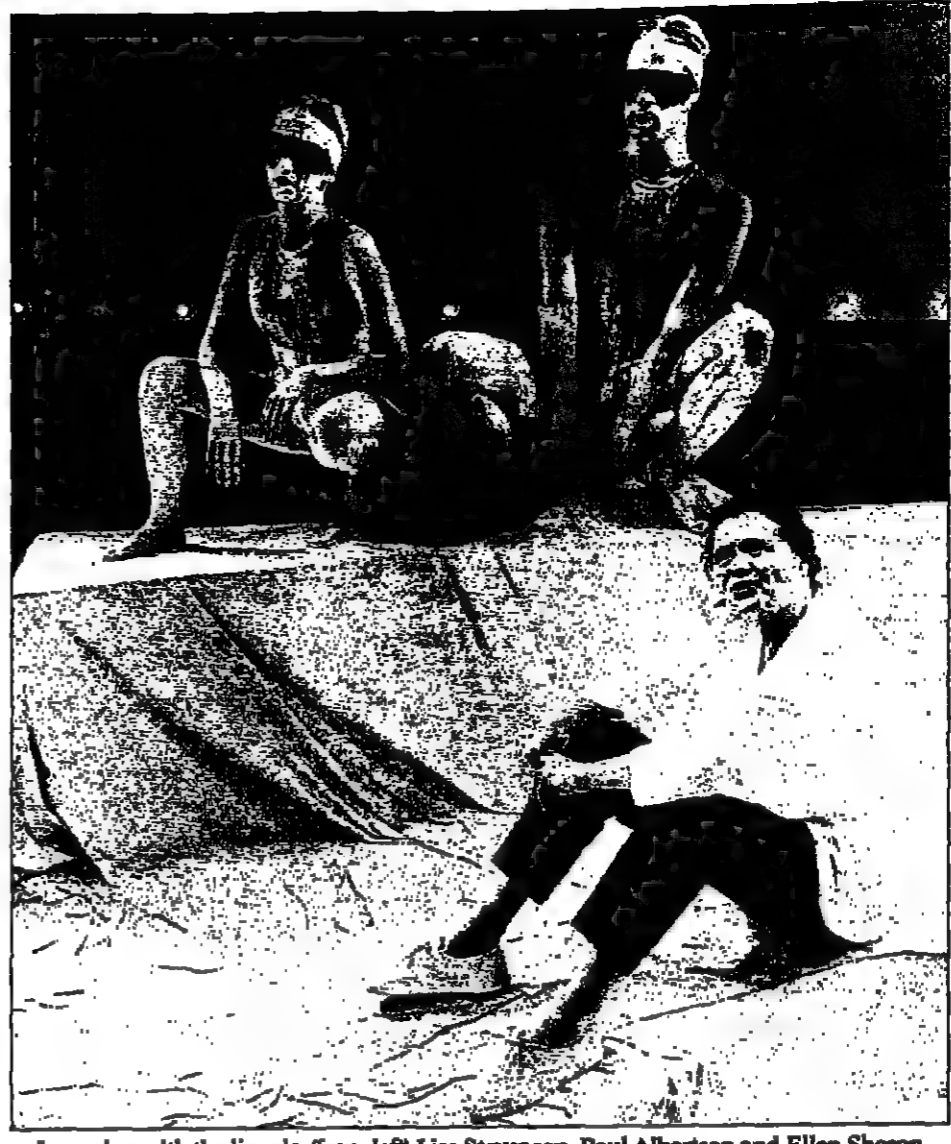
Seascape
Citizens', Glasgow

The play is by Edward Albee and was written in his middle period, a fairly barren stretch. The programme says it won the 1974 Pulitzer Prize, which I do not want to believe because, despite the credit for eccentric invention, Albee does not seem aware enough of what he is aiming for or how to reach it. Nancy and Charlie are on a beach, somewhere in America. She is painting the sea, labelling her brush into the glass of water and switching it across the paper. She has no truck with the words her husband will later offer: "You've had a good life". That puts it in the past, she protests; she wants to start living now.

All Charlie (Robert David MacDonald) wants to do is lie

back on the sand and let his mind drift from one piece of nothing to the next. Fat chance with Nancy (Ellen Sheean) rabbiting on about her million and one idle concerns. Albee is creating the portrait of a marriage that has not yet gone entirely stale but is certainly less creamy than before. However, he is not alert to the dividing line between an irritating wife and an irritating character. Sheean gives too forward a performance, loud and visibly attentive, where someone married 30 years would not be bothered to do this all the time. As if in compensation, MacDonald (who also directs) plays as if Charlie is in a state of terminal weariness, although the childhood holidays when he trained himself to sit underwater are recalled with a briefly passionate sense of wonder and regret.

Then the lizards, Leslie and Sarah, appear. In their paint-drip costume, fine tails and sensational make-up (the smeared red mouth a particularly good touch), they peer and prod the human beings, who have rolled on to their backs to look submissive. The play improves greatly from now on, as Charlie explains evolution to them and they put



Lounging with the lizards (from left) Lise Stevenson, Paul Albertson and Ellen Sheean

their green feet on the first rung of the ladder that leads ahead to jet fighters and marital discontent.

The angular movements of Paul Albertson and Lise Stevenson are both convincing and captivating, and I enjoyed hearing Albertson's strained voice, like Tony Curtis, in *Some Like It Hot*. The play has not the feel

of a finished work but there is a strange charm about it that will probably keep its memory fresh.

JEREMY KINGSTON

ART

Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay and Ken Snel in exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white canvas. Matthew Wachs directs.

CASH ON DELIVERY Bradley Walsh in his first leading West End role in a musical about a man who, written by Michael Coveney and directed by his dad, Roy.

A DOLL'S HOUSE Janet McTeer plays the door in Anthony Page's production of Ibsen's late-nineteenth-century drama. Owen Teale plays her smothering husband, with John.

THE ENTERTAINER Michael Pennington in a strong cast produced by Stephen Paine, of Osborne's portrait of a mid-century Englishman. Hammersmith, Swiss Cottage, Camden, NW3 011-722 8001. Mon-Sat, 8pm.

FOOL FOR LOVE Ian Brown directs Barry Lynch and Lorraine Ashbourne in Sam Shepherd's drama of love on the edge of the Mayan desert. With Gavin Granger and Martin Marquez.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, no more only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

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CONCERTS: Gardiner gives the Dutch some stick; plus more from the American mavericks

Cleopatra with needle

Royal Concertgebouw/
Gardiner
Barbican

THE discovery of Shakespeare "struck me like a thunderbolt", wrote Berlioz. No less a reaction to the play in its performance of the composer's *La Mort de Cléopâtre*, and Anne Sofie von Otter emanated pity and terror in her performance with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and John Eliot Gardiner on Sunday.

Her engagement with Berlioz is always highly charged; here, though, it had to be manipulated and maintained through a long, intense monologue in which regal dignity contains remorse, pride, hauteur, grief and despair.

Outsiders look in

American Independents
South Bank

WEDNESDAY night's concert in the *American Independents* series offered music by one of the godfathers of the American avant-garde, Henry Cowell, and his pupils. Since these included such diverse characters as John Cage, Lou Harrison, George Gershwin and Bart Bacharach, it should have been both entertaining and illuminating.

An unhelpful programme, however, told us nothing about the works played nor who was playing them (various members of the accomplished Composers Ensemble). Nor was there much pleasure to be had from most of these dreary, uninspired pieces.

Cowell's own *The Aeolian Harp*.

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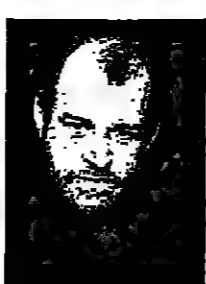
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FILM
Clara Bow and other luminaries from the silent age are recalled at Pordenone's festival



POP
Still the best voice in white soul: Joe Cocker wows the crowd at the Shepherd's Bush Empire

THE TIMES ARTS



OPERA
Out comes the old jukebox: Verdi's *Rigoletto*, in Miller's 'Mafia' staging, is revived again



TOMORROW
How will the British Museum answer its critics, and restore its financial health?

Organic snap and crackle

EVERY time Joe Cocker plays live someone always asks if he still vomits on stage, so let's get that one out of the way. This is the new, cleaned-up Cocker, and the throwing-up days are thankfully long gone. That allows us to concentrate on the voice — and what a voice. White soul at its best, rough and crackling, and in 30 years no one, on this side of the Atlantic at least, has matched it. Gone, too, are the overblown horn sections and massed choruses which reached their crazy, cast-of-thousands zenith on *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*.

For his current tour and new album Cocker has reverted to an almost unplugged format. The instruments are electric, but the six-piece band has a down-home, rootsy feel that allows Cocker's voice more space than we have heard in a long time. He describes the style as "organic" — also the title of the new album.

This is the showcase he has always needed, for since he does not write his own material or play an instrument, the voice and the interpretation are all-important. The understated approach of the band, which featured such long-standing Cocker stalwarts as

Jim Keltner and Chris Stainton, also highlights the man's masterful phrasing and timing. Those qualities have not always been obvious when in the past Cocker's voice has often seemed to be in competition with the wall of noise behind him. In this subtler setting his delivery is closer to some of the great jazz vocalists rather than the ranks of rock belters.

POP
Joe Cocker
Shepherd's Bush
Empire

Cocker adroitly mixed such old favourites as *Delta Lady*, *The Letter* and *Bye Bye Blackbird* with an assortment of songs from the new album by the likes of Randy Newman, John Sebastian and Van Morrison. In most cases he succeeded in adding something to the originals with his smoky, impassioned vocals.

To the crowd's disappointment there was no *With a Little Help From My Friends*, the frenzied, flailing Woodstock performance which probably still remains Cocker's finest hour. Apparently he feels its high-octane content does not suit his current "organic" approach. Its absence was a small price to pay for hearing that voice in such a sympathetic setting and in such fine fettle.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

CINEMA: Geoff Brown finds treasure among the revolting peasants at the Pordenone festival

Serfing the silent film waves

YOU are in Italy. Nine o'clock in the morning. The rain is pelt-ing down, as it has been for several days. To make matters merrier, the opening attraction of the day's schedule is an obscure Russian silent film from 1922. The title: *There is no Happiness on Earth*.

At times during the 15th edition of *Le Giornate del Cinema Muto*, happiness certainly seemed in short supply. Six hundred film scholars, archivists, collectors and buffs had made their annual pilgrimage to Pordenone, in northeast Italy, only to be faced with hour upon hour of serfs glaring through matted hair in an assortment of wooden shackles. In *The Land of the Soviets*, 1918-1924, the festival's main retrospective was called: and it soon became clear that whatever the achievements in revolutionary politics, these were not years of high cinematic endeavour.

In certain films we could see intimations of the aesthetic revolution to come. We saw some of Lev Kuleshov's famous editing experiments, which used disparate shots of faces and buildings to create the illusion of a narrative unfolding in a single spot: the so-called "Kuleshov effect". But in too many cases the films' revolutionary thrust lay only in their slogans; the plot material and the techniques stayed put in the pre-revolutionary period, when film-makers wallowed in peasant misery or socialist decadence without wishing to storm anything.

Yet the Pordenone festival still served a useful purpose by hauling the material off the shelves of the Gosfilmofond archive in Moscow. What we never see we never know about. Aside from poking into Soviet cobwebs, this year's festival also revived the silent career of Herbert Brenon, an Irish-American director whose career declined once films began talking.

He was volatile in temperament, and hurled a chair at the teenaged Loretta Young in the Lon Chaney vehicle *Laugh Clown Laugh* (after seeing her



Shaggy dog story: the Irish-American director Herbert Brenon in 1924, during the making of a whimsical *Peter Pan*

dewy-eyed performance, some of us tried to do the same). But this did not stop Brenon getting plum assignments in the Twenties with such major stars as Betty Bronson, Clara Bow or Pola Negri.

In the 1913 *Ivanhoe*, filmed with massed extras running round Chepstow Castle, his ambition exceeded his grasp. But he grew to be an enviable elegant director. Occasionally he had to lavish his gifts on puerile material: *The Breaking Point* of 1924 took the biscuit here (murder, amnesia, brain surgery, the lot). Other times Brenon was luckier: and in two films from J.M. Barrie properties — *Peter Pan* and *A Kiss for Cinderella* — he hit a vein of delicate whimsy unusual for Hollywood in the Twenties. *Peter Pan* has its imperfections, but one smile from the elfin Betty Bronson

could melt the hardest audience. She is equally ingratiating as the cockney drudge dreaming of Prince Charming in *A Kiss for Cinderella*, a deliciously inventive fantasy film, shaded with melancholy. The Brenon retrospective — a source of daily pleasure with not a serf in sight — forced one to consider how film reputations are made or resurrected. Seventy years ago, Brenon was a big name; by the time of his death in 1954, after years of quiet retirement, only the most rabid film buffs remembered him. To bring Brenon back to life, two things had to happen. We needed projectable prints;

and we needed an individual or an organisation happy to show them. Brenon's saviour in part was the late historian and collector William K. Everson, who kept screening the Barrie films when others let them sit in the vaults deteriorating.

This year's Pordenone festival was rightly dedicated to Everson's memory, along with that of John Gillett, for 40 years a fount of wisdom at the British Film Institute, and Fred Junck, maverick director of the Luxembourg Cinéma-thèque. These people breathed, ate and slept cinema; their passionate commit-

ment enlarged and enlivened film history for audiences worldwide, and for generations to come.

Film history also cannot be reclaimed and disseminated without the work of the world's archives. As usual, Pordenone offered the fruits of various restoration projects. For eye-popping splendour, nothing could match Joe May's weird and wonderful *Das Indische Grabmal*, a German epic of 1921 restored by the Munich Film Museum. The film was variously remade in the talkie era; but only May's version enjoys such startling architecture, ex-

otic costumes, or the piercing eyes of Conrad Veidt, cast as the sadistic Maharajah of Echnapur, anxious to wall up his erring wife in a grand mausoleum.

Exhibits from the UCLA Film and Television Archive in Los Angeles also afforded much pleasure. We spotted future stars in *The Bright Shawl* (1923), a sluggish Cuban story brightened by early appearances from Edward G. Robinson, Mary Astor and William Powell; a film miraculously brought back to life from two brittle, scratched surviving prints.

As before in Pordenone, showmanship was sometimes lacking. After the rediscovery two years ago of the American Jewish comedian Max Davidson, more shorts and a surviving feature were screened. We laughed, as usual, though Davidson's cause was hardly served by showing dim prints on a 16mm projector that could not keep even a sharp print in perfect focus.

And Herbert Brenon took a bad knock on the final night when his 1926 version of *Beau Geste* was accompanied by the bluesy wailings of a local group, the Zero Orchestra. Still, such a precious event as *Le Giornate del Cinema Muto* exists to experiment, and sometimes to fail. Exploring film history should always be an adventure.

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Sunday Times

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Back to that bar in Sicily

THE *Mousetrap* of the operatic stage has returned yet again to snare new and ever eager audiences. The penultimate revival of Jonathan Miller's Mafia *Rigoletto*, we were told, would definitely be its last. But the Sicilian bar was filling up with the black-suited gentlemen once more in 1995, and the jukebox is still going strong.

As the Duke puts his nickel in, and *La donna è mobile* compels out, there is now a lively counterpoint of audience reaction: from those who really are enjoying the surprise for the first time, and from those whose anticipation of this infallible production trick causes a ripple of mischievous delight. This counterpoint is made possible, of course, because of that which exists on

stage: in this revival (by David Rind), superb musical preparation engages tightly with still minutely observed production detail.

The first encounter of the Duke and Gilda still causes a frisson: the chamber-musical quality of the singing of Bonaventura Bonone and Janice Watson maintains it throughout the scene. Still that first red glow of a distant cigarette burns its way through *Caro nome*, sung with heart-stopping lucidity by Watson. And watch how chillingly that mass of individual faces in the bar turns to a single numb block as *Rigoletto* pleads for the return of his daughter.

Peter Siddons, taking the title role for the first time, has total command of the stage at this point, bringing to an aching crescendo the complex of emotions at which he has already hinted in his eloquent first scene. His final, awful discovery is as yet not quite timed to perfection; but this is on the whole a most sensitively paced portrayal.

The tension within Siddons's *Rigoletto* is nurtured by some outstanding playing from the ENO orchestra, sharply defined by Noel Davics's urgent conducting. Bonone's unaging Duke, too, is like a coiled spring: his tenor gleams in its every indefatigable movement. While he and Jean Rigby's dark Maddalena are old hands in this production, it is Janice Watson's first Gilda. Vocally beyond reproach, she needs only to express rather more fully in her body the yearning and vulnerability focused so eloquently in her voice. By the second or third performance (there are nine more), this could well be one of the strongest revivals of Miller's *Rigoletto* to date.

HILARY FINCH

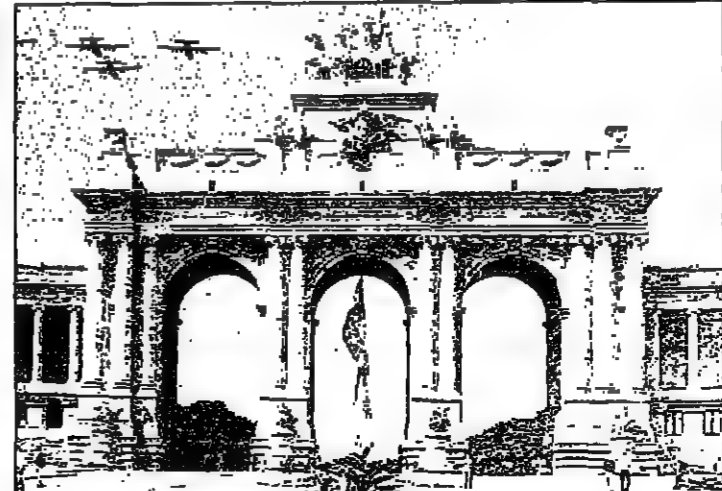
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Researchers needed

The current edition of our legal directory has been receiving high praise. Everyone comments that in the last two years it has taken immense strides forward and has become the market leader.

We always check with a cross-section of clients to find out how useful they find the directory. Their response this year has been more positive than ever before. More useful than any of the others, is a typical comment. More objective, is another. They say it's reliable, well produced, and easy to get around. All agree that the research behind it is impressive.

We still come across a few clients who prefer the Legal 500. They prefer its layout. But there it is: you can't please everyone. No-one has yet suggested that any other directory is better researched or more objective and reliable than ours. By way of criticism, some have said it's becoming rather heavy. Unfortunately, they're right. On the other hand, the Legal 500 is even heavier.

We are now recruiting our research team at Long Lane for the next edition. If you would be interested in joining us, please send me your cv. We need lawyers with several years' experience in the profession who enjoy talking to leading practitioners and getting their recommendations. Writing skills are useful, but less important than the ability to do accurate research.

Michael Chambers

INDUSTRY & BANKING Sonya Rayner

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LAW

The battle for the Bar



Healing: warned off

William Healing, who went through last year's Bar selection process, says the system is in obvious need of reform

Don't do it," a barrister told me before I decided to try for the Bar. His advice was almost prophetic in the light of the Bar Council's attempt this autumn to introduce a better selection scheme for pupil barristers. PACH (the pupillage application clearing house) was designed to ease the annual deluge of applications by aspiring barristers. But it seems to have given all the convenience to sets of chambers, not students, and, claim critics, may have reinforced the age-old Oxbridge bias in selection. The Bar is a popular career — there were 1,600 applications this year for 850 trainee places or pupillages. Students see lucrative rewards and intellectual pursuits ahead, but a large minority enter Bar school without the required determination and in the belief that they will walk into a pupillage (training). The Bar is still having to compete hard for the best. Undergraduates say: "If I can become a solicitor-advocate, why be a barrister?" Faced with solicitor competition in the courtroom, selection for the Bar is tougher than ever. But are the right applicants making it through pupillage and into the profession? Put another way, what gets you into the Bar, apart from hard



James and Joanna Nicholls: "Can we afford, like younger aspiring barristers, to resign ourselves to insecurity?"

Our dining room table long ago disappeared under the weight of my husband's law manuals, but we have never lost sight of our life. Ever since he began studying law part-time two years ago, my husband has stressed that our marriage — and any family we might have — would always come first. He would never "pay the final price" and jeopardise our life together, just to achieve his long-held ambition to be a barrister. I have always trusted him and had no hesitation in supporting him in whatever way I can. My husband spent five years working in insolvency — an area containing the kind of law which most interests him — while we manoeuvred ourselves into a financial position which would enable him to return to college. The Bar is supposedly crying out for people with real commercial experience. Earlier this year he came second in the prestigious Times Law Awards with his essay on The Future of Advocacy. The prize money was most welcome, but more important was the indication this gave of his grasp of current Bar issues. A few

Her husband's desire to be a barrister is proving a test of will, says Joanna Nicholls

months later, he won one of the coveted Middle Temple scholarships to study at Bar school. Again, it was the encouragement this conveyed that mattered. His application for the new pupillage clearing scheme (PACH) was, we thought, a winner. A senior partner at a top law firm had offered to be a referee. My husband could list strong contacts at just about every City law firm and though he tried not to overplay his hand, his application looked strong.

Interviews came in. There were a couple of good second interviews and a promising mini-pupillage where the pupil master rang to praise his work. By last week, when the PACH letters with first-round offers went out, we were confident.

Too confident? I still do not think so. The signs had been so good. Then came a letter saying my husband had received not one pupillage offer. We were dreadfully disappointed. It is not the end of the line, but it made us wonder how much longer it is sensible to pursue this dream.

When my husband began studying part-time, I was in a well-paid job. Now, freelance and expecting our first baby, my earning capacity is considerably reduced and will soon dry up. Can we afford, like younger aspiring barristers, to resign ourselves to the insecurity of mini-pupillage, once my husband has finished Bar school, in the hope of the big break? And if not, should we continue with the course at all?

There are other options; advocacy in a solicitors' firm, the employed Bar, maybe returning to his old firm. But he is a barrister to his toes — they are a breed apart from those of us who are comfortable working in a big firm, pushing paper for someone else. Deciding to climb this Everest, we now see, was the easy part. It is knowing when it is time to give up the fight which will hard.

Stop judging people by their appearance

Last month, a judge in Houston, Texas, ordered an Orthodox Jew to remove his skull cap before he gave evidence in a civil trial, on the ground that the jury might otherwise think he had religious authority. The state of dress (or undress) of those who come to court, and other aspects of their demeanour, have concerned many judges over the years, usually for reasons as bad as those which troubled the Houston judge.

The judge relied on a 1975 decision by the Court of Appeals of New York that a court could prohibit an advocate who was also a Roman Catholic priest from wearing a clerical collar when acting for a defendant in a criminal trial because "a juror might view differently statements made by a member of the clergy". But any such principle plainly has no application when what is worn in court indicates religious beliefs rather than religious authority, and when those beliefs oblige the person to keep his head covered.

Although it is easier to justify regulation of the dress of a professional advocate than of a witness, the California Court of Appeal held in 1984 that a judge has no right to refuse to allow an advocate to wear a turban in court, even when the advocate refused to confirm that he did so for religious reasons. Associate Justice Butler explained that to require a lawyer to disclose religious beliefs as a condition precedent to being allowed to represent a client in court "returns us to those troubled times our ancestors fled in their search for freedom from religious oppression".

Some American courts have imposed more general dress codes. In 1981, the Court of Appeals in Washington State held that a judge was entitled to refuse to hear a litigant in person in a civil case who declined to wear a jacket and tie and insisted on wearing a shirt with an open collar. In Arkansas in 1990, a judge found a female litigant in contempt because she was not wearing a bra and her breasts were "obviously showing".

Even imitation is not necessarily any form of flattery, as demonstrated by the Chicago Seven trial in 1969, when two of the defendants came to the court wearing judicial robes. They were punished for contempt because, during a recess, one of the defendants "removed his robes, dropped them on the floor and walked all over them. Underneath the robes he was wearing a Chicago policeman's shirt".

In 1988, the Court of Appeal in London allowed an appeal by a defendant who had been convicted of defrauding the Department of Health and Social Security by claiming supplementary benefit as a married woman

with three children. The defendant was in a male prison and had a previous conviction for rape but claimed he was a woman. The trial judge refused to allow the defendant to appear in court dressed as a woman "in a frock". The Court of Appeal concluded that the judge should have made it clear that the defendant would be allowed to give evidence wearing female clothes.

Some sensible judges have recognised that parties to litigation may, for perfectly proper reasons, appear in an unusual manner. In Southwark Crown Court in September, a defendant went on trial in a bed brought into the courtroom. Because the defendant was suffering from a back injury, he lay in a bed which was raised so that he could see the proceedings. This may well be the first trial in this country in which a defendant has remained in bed, although judges have given injunctions, late at night, while dressed only in their pyjamas.

The defendant in Southwark Crown Court was unable to stand up. In 1985 the Court of Appeal decided that the Cambridge County Court was entitled to refuse to hear a litigant's claim because the litigant refused to stand while addressing the judge. The litigant explained that he had no respect for this country or its civilisation or its courts, and so he would remain seated. After allowing the litigant to address them sitting down (so as to avoid prejudging the fundamental issues raised by his case), the judges of the Court of Appeal concluded that "if a court orders someone to stand when addressing it or giving evidence, that order is no different from any other order of the court. It is something which has to be obeyed." There are similar cases in Canada and in the US where defendants have been punished for contempt by refusing to stand when the judge entered the courtroom.

Other than in extreme cases where the ability of the court fairly to determine the issues would be impeded, judges should allow people to come to court dressed as they please, sitting down or lying down. The risk of the appearance of bias inherent in this context is indicated by the case of the Michigan judge who was suspended from office in 1976 for 18 months for a series of injudicious decisions, including a reduction in a defendant's bail bond from \$10,000 to \$500 on condition that the defendant had "his hair cut in a fashion similar to that of the judge".

Courts should refrain from judging litigants and witnesses by their appearances. The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK QC

A case of sour grapes?

MARTIN MEARS, who promised to maintain a concerted opposition when he was defeated in the Law Society's presidential election this summer, has launched his first salvo against the current incumbent, Tony Girling. He and Robert Sayer, the former vice-president, have issued two "fact sheets" — which both the slogan "the truth, no economy, no varnish, no concealment" — about Law Society affairs. They harangue the solicitors' indemnity fund for miscalculating this year's indemnity premiums and accuse Mr Girling of issuing disinformation over the vote on splitting the Law Society's representative and regulatory functions. Recently they sent a private circular to members of the Law Society council in which Mr Mears mounted a personal attack against Mr Girling over the Law Society's treatment of a senior staff member.

Great refuge REFUGE, the charity which helps battered women, needs £130,000 a year just to balance

its books. Much of it comes from fundraising and individual donations. The family law department of Charles Russell — which celebrates its 25th birthday this year — is sponsoring a concert by the Medici Quartet tomorrow, at 6pm, in its offices at 8-10 New Fetter Lane.

The concert will be followed by a reception and buffet at which Sir Nicholas Wilson, the High Court judge, will talk about the charity's work. All proceeds to Refuge. Details of tickets (price £60; 0171-203 5000).

Getting together IN a market that is overheating with rumours of mergers, one is finally confirmed. The Leeds-based Addleshaw Sons & Latham and Manchester's Booth & Co are merging to form Addleshaw Booth & Co. The merger, says Paul Lee, senior partner-elect of the new firm, "offers a marriage of professional excellence and commercial acumen which we believe will be unparalleled in the North". But their move would be dwarfed if another rumoured merger between the

City law firms Cameron Markby Hewitt, Denton Hall and McKenna & Co comes to fruition. The partners are said to be on the point of voting on whether to go ahead.

Patent bid THE Chartered Institute of Patent Agents has launched a bid to win the right for its members to conduct litigation in the Chancery Division of the High Court, including the Patents Court, and to conduct appeals from the High Court and the Patents County Court. It has submitted an application to Aides, the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee for legal education and combat, and is hoping to hear its advice on the application soon.

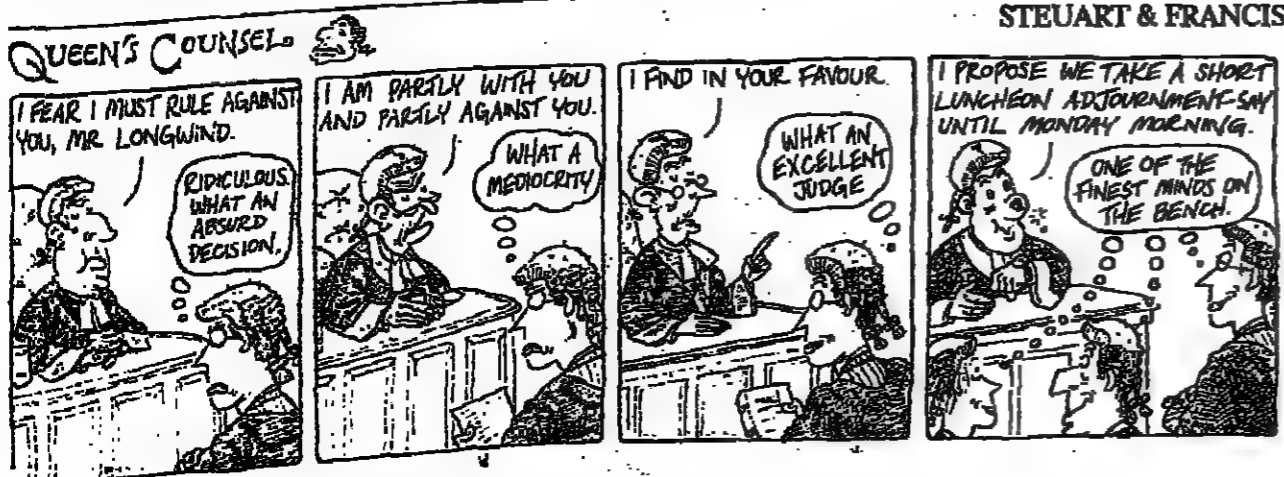
All work ... THE American law firm White & Case is reported to be about to pay its newly qualified English solicitors New York rates. However, all that glitters is not gold. Where the City law firm Clifford Chance, for example, pays its new lawyers £28,000, the American firm is going to pay £45,000. In return, most US firms will want them to bill a minimum of 2,300 hours a year instead of the average of 1,380 expected in UK firms.

SCRIVENOR

Judge ye not ...



Lord Justice Phillips, left, may have found the Maxwell trial to be all-consuming, but even he was taken aback to find himself introduced at the Biennial Conference of the International Bar Association in Berlin as Lord Maxwell who presided over the Phillips trial. "I will," he quipped, "be contacting my libel lawyers immediately."



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The Company's acquisition strategy gives rise to complex legal issues particularly in the areas of corporate and property law. Windsor Life now needs to establish an in-house legal resource. This is an excellent opportunity for an ambitious solicitor with 3-5 years post qualification experience to develop a new role.

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Windsor
LIFE ASSURANCE

Frances Gibb on how the insurance industry is helping 'no win, no fee' cases

Improved access to justice

Thousands of people too rich for legal aid but too poor to go to law are now bringing claims on a "no win, no fee" basis. More than 11,000 cases have come in, the Law Society says, since the Lord Chancellor's reforms took effect last year — a turnover of 1,000 a month — and the rate is rising.

The first "no win, no fee" group action — by lung cancer victims against tobacco companies — has been announced by the law firm Leigh Day, David Hartley, of the Law Society, said: "Many of these claims — which cover the whole range of accident cases — would never have got off the ground. Many people were frightened of taking legal action."

"No win, no fee" work covers personal injury, insolvency and human rights cases. Solicitors charge no fees if they lose, but up to double if they win. The extra fees — the uplift — come out of the damages recovered for the client. But the extra should not exceed one quarter of the damages.

So far, only a few cases have been concluded and it is too soon to judge the success rate. Typical of those being brought is that of Maureen Falconer, 57, a part-time cleaner who tripped on a pavement and badly fractured her ankle. Although on low earnings, her capital put her beyond reach of legal aid.

Simon Brennan, her solicitor, did the case on "no win, no fee" and won £6,000 compensation from Liverpool City Council. He said: "If the 'no win, no fee' scheme had not been in place, there would have been a point where costs would have escalated and if the other side hadn't settled, then the risks might have been too great to go on." Mrs Falconer accepts that she

could not have pursued the claim all the way. "I couldn't have gone to court — I was worrying about what would happen if I had to pay all the costs."

In fact, under the "no win, no fee" agreement, her costs were protected by insurance. And it is this involvement of the insurance industry which is proving crucial to the success of the reform.

The biggest obstacle with "no win, no fee" was seen as the risk of having to pay an opponent's costs if the case was lost. Yet if someone was already deterred from legal action because of that risk, how would "no win, no fee" help? But a whole new market in insurance has been unleashed by "no win, no fee". The Law Society runs its own Accident Line Protect, under which clients — for a premium of £85 — can insure against the other side's costs and own expenses. All 2,000 solicitors who are members of its Accident Line network (a panel of approved personal injury firms) can use the policy.

The scheme is not available for other solicitors though; nor does it cover medical negligence or other kinds of claim. Also in the market is Litigation Protection Ltd, the company first out with a conditional fee insurance for all types of claims. Some 500 policies have been taken out covering insolvency (a growing "no win, no fee" area for company clients), medical negligence cases and accident claims.

Last month it launched a scheme with Action for Victims of Medical Accidents, which gives up to £100,000 worth of cover against an opponent's costs, own expenses, counsel's fees and indemnity for expert witness fees where a case is lost.



The first "no win, no fee" group action against tobacco companies has been announced

Premiums start at £850 for £10,000 cover, rising to £6,000 for £100,000 cover. AVMA screens the cases, recommends whether they should be taken on, and ensures that cases are handled by one of its panel of specialist solicitors.

Hand in hand with the burgeoning of new ventures in legal services has come brand marketing of panels or networks of solicitors — which can improve access to the law for the public. One of the first was National Accident Helpline, with has about 60 personal injury firms in its group. Advertising and its free 24-hour helpline bring in 3,000 calls a month resulting in 650 new cases a month. Of these, 130 are handled on a "no win, no fee" basis.

There are still teething problems, however. Paul Balen, of Freeth Cartwright, has just won a £7,500 medical negli-

gence claim for a woman after the wrong operation was performed on the nerves of her wrist. She pays a quarter of that to him as the "uplift" on his fees. But the health authority is jibbing at paying her Litigation Protection premium of £1,500. "We believe that morally, the other side should pay," Mr Balen said. "They took an indefensible case and didn't even bother to call their witnesses." The issue is awaiting a decision.

Then there is the question of fees. Will solicitors abide by the guideline to take no more than 25 per cent of damages? David Marshall, of Anthony Gold, Lerman & Muirhead, said: "It's not a question of automatically doubling what we would normally charge. It could be between 20 and 30 per cent more, depending on the risk involved, the kind of case and the damages likely to be recovered. But, if we win some and lose some, it proba-

bly justifies charging up to 100 per cent more."

It is still early days for a verdict, but the signs are good. Lord Mackay of Clashfern has indicated that he wants to widen the scheme to other civil disputes but is awaiting the first research into how it is working. Both the Law Society and Litigation Protection would welcome that. "It has greatly improved access to justice as well as the public perception of the legal profession," Brian Raincock, managing director, said.

Ian Pears, of Shoosmith and Harrison, Northampton, who signed up the first "no win, no fee" deal last July (and 200 others since), said: "We have helped a very large number of clients to pursue legitimate claims which they could not have otherwise afforded. We have allowed victims to knock on the doors of the court, rather than try to push open some heavy floodgates."

Are there votes in legal aid?

If the Government wants to crack down on legal aid, then you can bet that nine times out of ten, they will crack down on the wrong people. That's how one member of the public reacted to the Government's plans for the biggest shake-up in legal aid for 50 years. And new research suggests that this is a representative view.

We know from the Queen's Speech that this Government won't be legislating on this subject before the election. But only the day before the Queen's Speech the Lord Chancellor, writing in *The Times*, recorded his commitment to the reform programme.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern has referred to "a failure of public confidence in legal aid", and its "low priority with the public". Gary Streeter, MP, Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, denounced legal aid applicants as "state-aided rotters".

So is there widespread support for government action? At first, Mr Streeter suggested that opposition came only from professional vested interests. "If the Law Society is against it," he told Parliament, "it is pretty firm evidence that we are on the right track."

However, September saw the publication of a joint statement made by leading national organisations representing advice agencies and groups helping victims of injustice. The joint statement condemned the White Paper's plans as "unworkable and unjust".

Now, two independent research studies demonstrate the overwhelming public support for legal aid, and highlight opposition to the proposals in the White Paper. Even when attention was drawn to government worry about the cost of legal aid, 91 per cent of respondents in a Gallup survey agreed that "legal aid is a vital part of helping people get justice".

The public is opposed to cuts, says Phillip Sycamore, vice-president of the Law Society



Eighty-four per cent, when told of the £1.4 billion cost of legal aid, agreed that "expenditure should continue at least at current levels because justice is too important to ration". Three in five people supported an extension of legal aid to cover people on middle income.

The Gallup research bears out public attitudes identified in a second, qualitative, survey involving six discussion groups. Two quotations from the qualitative study illustrate the common view: "It is tampering with a fairly fundamental human right for the sake of a relatively modest amount of money."

"If they cap it, they are changing the rules; they can't say we have run out of justice."

People questioned by Gallup were clearly against the Government's proposal to make unsuccessfully legally

aided litigants pay the other side's costs. The Government had suggested that legal aid was abused by people with trivial cases. This proposal was a cornerstone of their effort to save money by deterring people from using legal aid.

But the public were quick to see through the plan — 81 per cent of those in the Gallup survey agreed that it would deter people with good cases. People in the discussion groups had been shocked by this proposal, which they found "harsh and vindictive". Reactions included the following: "If you can't afford to pay before the case, and so you get legal aid, how are you supposed to pay if you lose?"

"You will be frightened to go to court no matter how strong your case is."

The Gallup poll found that three out of four people believed mistakenly that there are currently no controls over trivial cases. Only a minority were aware that there are checks on whether a case was winnable or whether what people hoped to gain was worthwhile — although both are part of the legal aid scheme.

Unsurprisingly, therefore, a small majority thought that that an initial fee, as proposed by the Government, should be paid by the legally aided litigant. But a similar number thought that even £10 to £20 would be too much for someone on social security or a pensioner.

The Lord Chancellor has spoken frequently of the need to restore public confidence in legal aid. If he is guided by the findings of this research, he will change his approach. The public have not been taken in by scare stories, and they still believe in legal aid's vital role in society.

People may object to wealthy individuals or trivial cases getting legal aid, and would support changes to outlaw abuse. But they do not support measures which will ration access to justice.

AUSTRALIA/LONDON

We have recently received a large number of instructions from Australian firms and now have a large number of vacancies registered in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Canberra and Brisbane. The majority of these are in the corporate, banking and finance sectors although we do have vacancies for litigators, both commercial and insurance.

This influx of instructions has been fuelled by an international shortage of lawyers. London law firms are now recruiting Australian and New Zealand qualified solicitors and barristers; the leading Australian law firms are keen to recruit two to five year qualified solicitors who have worked in the top London practices.

They require a minimum of two years commitment and although it is easier for native Australian/New Zealand applicants to obtain work permits, some of the firms will sponsor visa applications for applicants who can demonstrate "unique" experience.

Garfield Robbins has significant experience in dealing with the Australian firms and Gavin Crocker will be visiting all of the top ten law firms in Australia in December, taking the cvs of candidates and speaking to the relevant partners on their behalf. Applicants who wish to find out more about working "down under", or Australian law firms looking to return home, should contact Gavin at the London office or by email on gavin@garfieldrobbins.co.uk.

LONDON: Contact Dominique W. Pengelly, Gavin Crocker or Andrea Melnick (all qualified lawyers) on 0171 417 1400 or write to them at the London office for further information in complete confidence. Evenings/weekends 0181 960 6144. Confidential fax: 0171 417 1444. Email: dominiquewp@garfieldrobbins.co.uk

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CORPORATE

3 to 5 Years Qualified
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WORLDWIDE PRACTICE IN-HOUSE

Int. Public Affairs
A unique opportunity exists with this major US multinational for a lawyer with extensive involvement in EU affairs and, ideally, lobbying experience. As the company's link to Brussels, you will keep abreast of developments and lobby on the company's behalf. Ref: 22912M.

Company/Commercial
This highly successful US multinational requires a circa 5 year qualified US or UK lawyer with general commercial experience to join a small adviser for its substantial Irish operations. Ref: 22912M.

Commercial Litigation
Many of the top Hong Kong law firms are looking for a commercial lawyer with a knowledge of the Chinese language and a minimum of 5 years' experience to join a private company. Ref: 22912M.

Corporate
This major international law firm is seeking a 1-4 year qualified lawyer to join its either Mandarin or Cantonese speaking general co/comm role. Ref: 22912M.

Project Finance/Engineering
This UK based law firm is looking for a 3-6 years qualified Project Finance lawyer with some utilities/energy experience to join its first-class opportunities to progress in a dynamic organisation. Ref: 22912M.

Banking/Aviation Finance
A top UK based law firm needs a 6 month to 2 years qualified lawyer to undertake a mixture of aviation and banking law. Fluency or near fluency in French is essential. Ref: 22912M.

Intellectual Property
This thriving UK based practice is looking for a young, 2 to 5 year qualified IP specialist to join the group. Ref: 22912M.

Brussels
The well respected department of this major international law firm is seeking a 1-4 year qualified lawyer to join its either Mandarin or Cantonese speaking general co/comm role. Ref: 22912M.

Ship/Project Finance
The well respected department of this major international law firm is seeking a 1-4 year qualified lawyer to join its either Mandarin or Cantonese speaking general co/comm role. Ref: 22912M.

City
The well respected department of this major international law firm is seeking a 1-4 year qualified lawyer to join its either Mandarin or Cantonese speaking general co/comm role. Ref: 22912M.

Sole Counsel
This extremely successful company is seeking to recruit its first lawyer, up to 7 years qualified, to be based at the HQ, providing commercial advice to the company. Ref: 22912M.

Overseas - Multimedia London
This multimedia company is looking for a 4 years qualified lawyer with a background in commercial law to join its team. Ref: 22912M.

Commercial (Europe) London
Media organisation seeks a high calibre commercial lawyer, 3 years qualified, to join a small European team. Ref: 22912M.

Senior Internal London
This global communications company is looking to recruit a senior internal to join a small and highly respected team. You will have a minimum of 8 years international commercial experience gained in the telecoms sector. Ref: 22912M.

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PROPERTY

1-5

London Office

Garrett & Co's London property department offers commercial property solicitors the opportunity to:-

- broaden the scope of your property skills through servicing one of the country's most demanding and varied client bases
- work within a supportive team whose expertise will guarantee your own development but which is small enough to raise your profile with clients and colleagues alike
- enjoy a rewarding and well rewarded role in a culture of professional excellence
- participate in a firm with a future; Garrett & Co. is the fastest growing law firm in the UK and a member of the Arthur Andersen International Network of Law Firms

In fact, if you are a commercial property lawyer between 1 and 5 years qualified, have good City or regional firm experience, and are sufficiently professional to want a career rather than a job...

..... Nothing could offer greater opportunity

GARRETT & CO

Garrett & Co. is associated with Arthur Andersen through its membership of the Arthur Andersen International network of law firms

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Deborah Delgleish on 0171-495 6062 (0181-520 6559 evenings/weekends) or write to her at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. This assignment is being exclusively handled by Quarry Douglas Recruitment, and any direct or third party applications will be sent to them.

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ALCATEL
ALSTHOM

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT FINANCE

Paris, France Excellent Remuneration Package

Alcatel Alsthom is one of the world's leading providers of high technology systems and equipment for telecommunications, power and transportation. With revenues of FF 160 billion and world-wide assets of FF 255 billion, each of the Group's business divisions ranks among the very best in its field.

An additional senior lawyer is now sought to advise a high profile business team dedicated to the financing aspects of the Group's many telecommunications projects around the world. Based at Alcatel Alsthom's headquarters in Paris, France, you will participate in the structuring, negotiation and implementation of large-scale project finance transactions on a global basis.

Qualified in either the UK or United States, you will be between 30 and 40 years of age with extensive experience in the project finance arena (no exposure to telecommunications is necessary). You may currently be based in a law firm, company or financial institution and you will almost certainly be fluent in French. Of critical importance is a commercial approach and the ability to work as part of a team.

Alcatel Alsthom will offer you an impressive package, including substantial base salary, bonus and benefits.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Greg Abrahams on 0171-405 4062 (0171-266 5601 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Douglis Commerce & Industry Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4PH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. E-mail: greg.abrahams@qdrc.com. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Douglis Commerce & Industry Recruitment and any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them.



UNITED KINGDOM • FRANCE • THE NETHERLANDS • HONG KONG • NEW ZEALAND • AUSTRALIA • USA

LONDON & INTERNATIONAL VACANCIES

- PROPERTY** TO £40,000
If you are a talented, self-motivated property lawyer with at least three years' good quality, transactional and legal work, you will be a good fit for this role. This City firm, which has achieved significant prominence despite its relatively small size, could well suit you. You will need the flexibility to handle the full gamut of property transactions at least assistant. (Ref:K363)
- SHIPPING** TO £47,500
Highly successful shipping group at top City litigation practice has a key vacancy at the 2-4 year level for a lawyer with previous, a high degree of commercial awareness and substantial experience of handling predominantly dry disputes. If you can forecast an unlikely rise for partnership in your current firm, this represents an exceptional opportunity. (Ref:K367)
- PENSIONS** TO £45,000
Dynamic, medium sized City firm is putting substantial resources behind its pensions practice, which now seeks a lawyer with up to 4 years' exp of transactional and advisory work. Pre-requisites are the ability to advise in a user friendly manner and adopt a solutions oriented approach. The group has a large portfolio of its own clients in addition to servicing the corporate department. For candidates of partnership calibre, this is an exceptional opportunity. (Ref:K141)
- EXCEPTIONAL MARCH TIME QUALIFIERS**
In response to the demand for quality corporate, banking and commercial property advice, a number of our clients are giving up to recruit solicitors qualifying in March 1997. If you have an excellent academic background, a high level of commercial awareness and the ambition to succeed in an environment that rewards excellence with an attractive salary and excellent career prospects, please contact us. (Ref:K055)
- PROJECTS** £40-50,000
Thriving London office of top US practice has developed prominent projects practice. With a team of partners and senior solicitors in place, several junior and mid-level solicitors are sought. Successful candidates will have up to the year's relevant exp and the interpersonal skills necessary to succeed in this challenging environment. Significant premiums are on offer at all levels including newly qualified. (Ref:K265)
- TO £55,000**
Fast expanding London firm has made significant strides in the commercial sector by strategic integration of several lawyers with complementary skills. An EC competition with upwards of 4 years' exp is now sought. To fit in, you will need a good sense of humour, a straight talking, unpretentious approach and the ability to fit into a close knit, well managed team. (Ref:K173)
- HONG KONG CORPORATE** PREMIUM
Top City firm with significant international presence seeks corporate lawyer, newly to one year qualified, to work in its Hong Kong office. Unique opportunity to join a young, busy, well managed team handling a challenging mix of mergers, acquisitions and joint venture work in the private and public company sectors. Generous salary and benefits package. (Ref:K239)
- CORPORATE FINANCE** TO £50,000
This City firm has emerged strongly out of the recession and has embarked on an ambitious marketing and client care programme which has produced results beyond all expectations. Its corporate department is extremely busy and offers lawyers with 1-5 years' exp the chance to handle an impressive portfolio of transactional work. The work ethic and team spirit will appeal if you are feeling underused in your current environment. (Ref:K274)
- TAX** TO £45,000
Niche City firm with excellent name in the corporate and media sectors seeks an ambitious and commercially astute tax assistant with about 4 years' exp. Will suit a technically excellent lawyer with first class interpersonal skills who is perhaps frustrated operating in a much larger City firm environment. Excellent opportunity to get onto the fast track at a firm that offers a uniquely different approach to its City competitors. (Ref:K730)
- PROPERTY LITIGATION** TO £45,000
City firm with recognised property litigation practice seeks assistant at the 2-4 year level with excellent working knowledge of the regime governing the landlord and tenant relationship. This position will appeal to a mid-level solicitor feeling that higher current firm does not want to commit further resources to the development of its property litigation practice. The rationale at this firm could not be more different. (Ref:K334)

For further information on these and the many other private practice and industry vacancies registered with us please contact Andy Golding, Yvonne Smyth or Sally Horrocks on 0171-377 0516 (0171-241 1219 evenings/weekends). Alternatively please write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax: 0171-247 5174. E-mail: andy@zmb.co.uk Website: http://www.zmb.co.uk

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A VERY DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITY

Legal Counsel for Oriflame Eastern Europe

Oriflame is an international Group representing 50 countries. Over the past 29 years, Oriflame has grown into one of Scandinavia's leading cosmetic companies. Sales of Oriflame products exceed £330 million pa, and Oriflame International is listed on the London Stock Exchange. The Group has substantial manufacturing sites in Ireland and Poland.

Oriflame Eastern Europe (ORES) was established in Brussels in 1990 and now operates in 20 countries. ORESA will continue to expand rapidly in Central and Eastern Europe and South East Asia in the near future. The corporate culture is one of opportunity and enterprise characterised by young professional management.

We now seek an exceptional individual to become legal



counsel to ORESA, based in Brussels. Reporting to the Group Legal Counsel, you will be involved in business development in new markets and responsible for legal/tax affairs for specific regions of the Group. You will be an energetic lawyer, 27-32 years old, with some experience of law from an international perspective. It would be useful if candidates had some in-house experience (ideally in consumer goods), enjoy and be willing to travel and be able to communicate well.

Oriflame is characterised by its direct and open approach at all levels. For the right person, Oriflame can offer tremendous opportunities to grow within a successful international group which has ambitious expansion plans.

Should you see this task as your next challenge, please forward your complete written application (incl. CV, photo, salary expectations and possible starting date) to Sonya Rayner at:

CHAMBERS

74 LONG LANE, LONDON EC1A 9ET TELEPHONE: (0171) 606 9371 FAX: (0171) 600 1793

GROUP ADMINISTRATOR

McLeod Russel Holdings PLC is listed on the London Stock Exchange with a market capitalisation of approximately £110m. The group operates in two core business areas, air filtration and specialty surface coatings, with a total of 17 subsidiaries in 9 countries. The group is profitable and growing, with sales of £118m and profit before tax of £8.6m. The group Head Office, based in Abingdon, comprises a small, professional team dealing with all central strategic, financial, administrative and company secretarial matters.

As a result of internal reorganisation, the group has identified the need for an experienced group administrator to take responsibility for a wide



variety of areas, including insurances, pensions, company secretarial, property and legal matters, shareholder tracking and share option schemes. The position will report to the group finance director. There will be substantial exposure to the PLC board.

The successful candidate is likely to be ICASA qualified with sound previous company secretarial experience, some of which should have been gained within a PLC environment. Computer literacy would be advantageous, as would some knowledge of overseas operations.

Salary is expected to be around £32,000 + benefits for a candidate with the relevant professional experience.

For further details please contact Fiona Boxall or Jane Wallace or send them your CV

CHAMBERS

74 LONG LANE, LONDON EC1A 9ET TELEPHONE: (0171) 606 8844 FAX: (0171) 600 1793

TIME TO MOVE ON

- DRY SHIPPING** TO £55,000
Niche established shipping practice in the City with an outstanding international reputation seeks a 2-5 year qualified dry shipping lawyer from a top firm. You will join one of the major niche practices in the field with an unparalleled client base. In a friendly and human environment where the prospects are real. Ref: T24491
- IN-HOUSE - OIL AND GAS** TO £Competitive
International oil and gas company seeks a senior lawyer to join its legal team in the North. Applicants must have a minimum of 7 years' exp in the engineering/construction or oil and gas sectors, good drafting and negotiating skills and be a team player. Excellent opportunity to move in-house. Ref: T22232
- IT/TELECOMS** TO £63,000
This major City practice with a leading IT/telecoms department seeks a Media/telecoms lawyer at the 3-5 year level. You must be ambitious, focused and with strong academic background and personality. You will join a high profile and renowned telecoms team. Excellent opportunity. Ref: T14286
- SENIOR IN-HOUSE - IP** TO £Excellent
This major plc seeks a commercial lawyer with a minimum of 8 years' commercial experience coupled with international intellectual property knowledge for a... You will manage in-house resources liaising with senior management and external lawyers as appropriate. Ref: T32078
- INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY** TO £60,000
Top City firm seeks two intellectual property lawyers 2-5 years' exp to join their growing dynamic team, one to do high profile, non-contentious transactional work, the other to do complex IP litigation (a scientific background for this position would be of benefit). Ref: T2189
- CORPORATE** TO £60,000
Blue chip City firm, with high quality institutional instructions, seeks corporate commercial lawyers at the 1-6 year qualified level. Your exposure will be broad and will include takeovers, financings as well as mergers and acquisitions. Top prospects in expanding firm. Ref: T22296
- IN-HOUSE** Paris TO £ V.Competitive
The major professional organisation based in Paris seeks a commercial lawyer, ideally with some litigation experience as well, to undertake a wide range of work from arbitration to general commercial law and IT work. French/German language skills are a distinct advantage. Ref: T16505
- COMMERCIAL PROPERTY** TO £55,000
City firm with a strong commercial property client base seeks 0-5 years qualified commercial property lawyers. As the junior and you will have gained excellent commercial property experience from a top City firm during Articles. Workload is an interesting combination of corporate support, landlord and tenant, and development work. Ref: T14123
- OIL AND GAS** TO £57,000
Oil and gas lawyers everywhere, now is the time to cash in on our marketability and join the arguably No.1 player in the market place. This City firm has a tremendous profile in domestic and international oil and gas projects acting for the biggest players in the industry. You will be 2-5 years qualified with relevant experience. Ref: T22325
- CORPORATE TAX** TO £52,000
City firm now requires newly qualified to 4 year corporate tax lawyers to join its fully integrated corporate tax practice. Opportunity to be closely involved in complex international transactions identifying the most efficient structures for them. Absolute prerequisites are strong academic background and technical skills. A commercial acumen will help your long-term prospects. Ref: T14123
- EMPLOYMENT** TO £50,000
Top 5 City firm seeks 2-4 year qualified non-contentious employment lawyer to join close-knit team doing a broad range of employment, pensions and benefits work. More junior lawyers with exceptional experience will be considered. Excellent opportunity to join top international law firm. Ref: T28522
- ASSET FINANCE** TO £48,000
Medium sized City firm with a strong banking and finance department seeks further asset finance lawyers at the 2-4 years' exp level. Work is broad ranging including equipment leasing, securitisation, off balance sheet structures, and security documentation. Excellent prospects within a strong City firm. Ref: T28673
- CONSTRUCTION** Hong Kong TO £39,000
Leading construction practice seeks 1-3 year qualified construction lawyer with predominantly contentious construction experience. You will participate in international and domestic matters including High Court, Arbitration and ADR. Good prospects and superb salary. Ref: T32186
- IN-HOUSE BANKING** Australia TO £90,000
Major financial organisation seeks a senior compliance officer to head up a new department in Sydney. A highly competitive salary coupled with exciting prospects in this new venture awaits someone with a strong legal, banking or regulatory/compliance background. Ref: T32251

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Alison Jacobs, Rebecca Errington or Greg Abrahams (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 4062 (0171-731 5699 or 0171-357 0912 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglis Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4PH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. E-mail: alison@qdrc.com



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Rea Brothers

CORPORATE FINANCE MANAGER

£COMPETITIVE UK MERCHANT BANK CITY

Founded in 1919, Rea Brothers is an independent Merchant Banking group quoted on the London Stock Exchange. Rea Brothers' services include private banking, investment management, offshore services, retirement planning and corporate finance. The group jealously guards its reputation for integrity, expertise and personal service.

The corporate finance division focuses on developing close relationships with growing companies, both public and private, including many owner-managed businesses.

The opportunity now exists for a suitable individual to manage a newly-created transaction team.

The successful candidate is likely to be involved in all aspects of UK corporate finance advisory activity including acquisitions, disposals, new issues, secondary issues, financial reconstructions and general financial advice. Constant top-level client contact is the norm, as is involvement with both the origination and execution of transactions.

You will currently be a corporate lawyer with up to four years post-qualification experience with a sound knowledge of the Yellow and Blue books. In addition, you will be commercially astute, numerate and equally comfortable dealing with clients and other professional advisers.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please submit your curriculum vitae to our advising consultant, John Asworthy at Asworthy Oliver Associates, St Martins House, Priory Court, Pilgrim Street, London EC4V 6DR, or alternatively telephone him for a confidential discussion on 0171 329 3434, fax: 0171 782 0200

X

Robert Wright
suggests the best value in
the ante-post market.




Donna Viola ties up Yellow Ribbon

the likes of Barathan, Dancing Brave, Ezzoud, Milligram, Opera House, Sayyadati and Sonic Lady failed. They were among British-trained horses routed in the four Breeders' Cups staged in California.

"We were lucky with the weather," Wall suggested. "We flew from a mild autumn back home to a period of cool weather in California. We would have had more problems had we travelled from frost-bitten Newmarket to a temperature in the mid-80s, which is the average in California at this time of year."

Closer to home, the David Nicholson-trained five-year-old Castle Sweep has been installed the 9-4 favourite with Coral for the £20,000-added Tote Silver Trophy Handicap Hurdle (2m) on Saturday or Sunday. A field of 20 was nominated at yesterday's six-day entry stage.

	2.45 WILLIAM HILL DEBIT CARD NOVICES	
	HANDICAP HURDLE (25.247 2m 3p) (13)	
	1-131P MILLION DANCER 22 (8,20,31) M Age 4-12-0 A P McCoy 93	
	2-3P- PRESIDENT BUCK 182 (8) M 7-10-15-5 D 6-11-11 C Llewellyn 95	
	3-4-1 COLE HILL 18 (10) M 7-10-15-5 D 6-11-11 C Llewellyn 95	
	4-24S- SPENSER POINT 31 C. Popham 5-11-5 D 5 December 31 (3) 98	
	5-10-1 PLUTO 15 (10) M 6-10-15-5 D 6-11-11 C Llewellyn 95	
	6-40S- CHAZONS PROSPECT 182 B Midlam 5-11-4 D 5-11-4 D 5-11-4 D 95	
	7-212P PLUTO 15 (10) M 6-10-15-5 D 6-11-11 C Llewellyn 95	
	7-F4S- POLICEMANS PRIDE 8 M 7-10-15-5 D 6-11-11 C Llewellyn 95	
	8-3P- SUREFIRE ADAM 10 B 6-10-15-5 D 6-11-11 C Llewellyn 95	
	9-40S- ALLY 31 B 6-10-15-5 D 6-11-11 C Llewellyn 95	
	10-3P- STEER POINT 13 B 6-10-15-5 D 6-11-11 C Llewellyn 95	

3.15 WILLIAM HILL DEVON & EXETER HANDICAP
CHASE (24.85\$ 2m B1 110yd) (7)

1	9/4	24	REGENTS 236 (F) Miss H Knight 8-12-0 J Osborne 95
2	11-3	13	CHANCE NINETY TWO 23 (F) S J Forster 7-11-8 B Ragnedon 98
3	10-5	10	STAINCH RIVER 52 (F) A S G Fraser 8-11-6 L A Ragnedon 96

<p> A Algonquin B Baldpate C Chimney D Dove E Emu F Falcon G Gull H Hawk I Ibis J Jay K Kestrel L Lark M Magpie N Nighthawk O Owl P Pheasant Q Quail R Raven S Sparrow T Toucan U Urbane V Vulture W Wren X X-ray Y Yukon Z Zebra </p>	<p> 1 Algonquin 2 Baldpate 3 Chimney 4 Dove 5 Emu 6 Falcon 7 Gull 8 Hawk 9 Ibis 10 Jay 11 Kestrel 12 Lark 13 Magpie 14 Nighthawk 15 Owl 16 Pheasant 17 Quail 18 Raven 19 Sparrow 20 Toucan 21 Urbane 22 Vulture 23 Wren 24 X-ray 25 Yukon 26 Zebra </p>	<p> 1 Algonquin 2 Baldpate 3 Chimney 4 Dove 5 Emu 6 Falcon 7 Gull 8 Hawk 9 Ibis 10 Jay 11 Kestrel 12 Lark 13 Magpie 14 Nighthawk 15 Owl 16 Pheasant 17 Quail 18 Raven 19 Sparrow 20 Toucan 21 Urbane 22 Vulture 23 Wren 24 X-ray 25 Yukon 26 Zebra </p>	<p> 1 Algonquin 2 Baldpate 3 Chimney 4 Dove 5 Emu 6 Falcon 7 Gull 8 Hawk 9 Ibis 10 Jay 11 Kestrel 12 Lark 13 Magpie 14 Nighthawk 15 Owl 16 Pheasant 17 Quail 18 Raven 19 Sparrow 20 Toucan 21 Urbane 22 Vulture 23 Wren 24 X-ray 25 Yukon 26 Zebra </p>	<p> 1 Algonquin 2 Baldpate 3 Chimney 4 Dove 5 Emu 6 Falcon 7 Gull 8 Hawk 9 Ibis 10 Jay 11 Kestrel 12 Lark 13 Magpie 14 Nighthawk 15 Owl 16 Pheasant 17 Quail 18 Raven 19 Sparrow 20 Toucan 21 Urbane 22 Vulture 23 Wren 24 X-ray 25 Yukon 26 Zebra </p>	<p> 1 Algonquin 2 Baldpate 3 Chimney 4 Dove 5 Emu 6 Falcon 7 Gull 8 Hawk 9 Ibis 10 Jay 11 Kestrel 12 Lark 13 Magpie 14 Nighthawk 15 Owl 16 Pheasant 17 Quail 18 Raven 19 Sparrow 20 Toucan 21 Urbane 22 Vulture 23 Wren 24 X-ray 25 Yukon 26 Zebra </p>	<p> 1 Algonquin 2 Baldpate 3 Chimney 4 Dove 5 Emu 6 Falcon 7 Gull 8 Hawk 9 Ibis 10 Jay 11 Kestrel 12 Lark 13 Magpie 14 Nighthawk 15 Owl 16 Pheasant 17 Quail 18 Raven 19 Sparrow 20 Toucan 21 Urbane 22 Vulture 23 Wren 24 X-ray 25 Yukon 26 Zebra </p>	<p> 1 Algonquin 2 Baldpate 3 Chimney 4 Dove 5 Emu 6 Falcon 7 Gull 8 Hawk 9 Ibis 10 Jay 11 Kestrel 12 Lark 13 Magpie 14 Nighthawk 15 Owl 16 Pheasant 17 Quail 18 Raven 19 Sparrow 20 Toucan 21 Urbane 22 Vulture 23 Wren 24 X-ray 25 Yukon 26 Zebra </p>	<p> 1 Algonquin 2 Baldpate 3 Chimney 4 Dove 5 Emu 6 Falcon 7 Gull 8 Hawk 9 Ibis 10 Jay 11 Kestrel 12 Lark 13 Magpie 14 Nighthawk 15 Owl 16 Pheasant 17 Quail 18 Raven 19 Sparrow 20 Toucan 21 Urbane 22 Vulture 23 W</p>
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8-7 C University, 20-1
9 **LET YOUR MOUTH SAY** G F#6-5-1-4 M A Hargrove
10 **LOTS-A-BLUES** Bb F#6-5-1-4 M J Dismorey
11 **MARY KNOX OW!** G F#6-5-1-4 M J Frost
12 **MISS STATEFAIR** Bb F#6-5-1-4 M A Holmstrom
13 **PHARMACEUTICAL** G Building 4-1-1-4 B Fenton
14 **SOLAR MIND** Bb E Flutes 5-1-1-4 B Powell

5-2 Potter's Gate, 5-1 Litching Bay, 5-1 Ashdown, 6-1 Curranall Mill, 6-1 Deane Moss, 14-1 Cedar Moss, 16-1 others

☐ **John Edwards, based at Ross-On-Wye.** Is to close his 29-year training career in a fortnight's

2.25 EARL OF STRAFFORD NOVICES HURDLE
(\$2,303; 2m 30) (9)

1	6-31	CLARAN 14 (COP)	1	October 5-11-3	A. Thornton
2	#3-	ALUS DELIGHT 14	2	November 5-10-12	L. Wren
3	#3-	REVENGEFUL MILD 189	3	John Perry 5-10-12	D. Fegitt (3)

AMANCIO.

5	2000	WINSTED 14.8	1/2 Jockey A-10-12	5 Strakley
6	0-00	CLUB CARIBBEAN P Hobs	A-10-7	N Williamson
7	0-00	ROSHALL 17 Mrs T Pottinger	5-10-7	G Hopkin (3)
8	0-00	WIDE "W" SHINE N Lampard	5-10-7	Cheer Webb (5)

5-4 Decade, 7-2 Calam, 5-1 Club Caribbean, 8-1 Winsted, 14-1 Openro 10-1 Brown Ann Male 10-3 - riders.

2.55 EARL OF WARWICK HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,011: 2m 3/4) (7)

12	4 Bradley	2 645 ROYAL CIRCUITS 17 (C,F,G) H	7-11-9	H Husband City
12	R Johnson	3 535 DESERT FORCE 190F (C,F,G) A	7-11-8	G Bradley
	Jesse Don	4 137 HULLO MARY DOLL 4 (M) A	7-11-9	
	W Walters	5 234 LITTLE HOOGLAND 13 (C,F,G) E	7-11-7	Michael Kammann (S)
	D Anderson (S)	6 400 ANGLAD 10 (C,F,G) S	7-11-7	R Johnson
2	T Gray	7 400 ANGLAD 10 (C,F,G) S	7-11-7	Cory Webb (S)
	M Beasley	8 W-D WALLY JAMES 10 (C,F,G) F	7-11-8	Gray Webb (S)
	R Bellamy			
	J R Koenigsm	2-4 Coral Fairy 3-1 Hullo Mary Doll 5-1 Little Hooplans 7-1 Royal Circus	7-11-9	Almae
	R Clifford	10 Desert Force 1-10 H-H		
	Michael Brown (S)			
	M.Dorjo			

(£4,006 2m 41 110yd) (3)

1 PP-8 MANE MOOD 10 (S,G) C Books 5-12-8 . . G Bradley
2 32-2 MINE'S AN ACE 14 (D,F,S) Miss V Vidarac 9-10-12
3 2234 DRUMSTICK 14 (D,F,S) A Bailey 10-10-9 . . C O'Dwyer

4-6 Mine's An Ace, 5-2 Man Mood, 5-1 Drumstick.

3.55 EARL OF ESSEX NOVICES HANDICAP

1-1 Harvey	1-582 ALPINE MIST 10 (D/D)	10 Dyes 4-11-11	Michael Bessard (S)
1-2 Hill	1-584 BULLY PASSION 7 (G)	10 Dyes 10-11-11	A. Augustin (T)
1-3 Thornton	2-96 PORTFOLIO 100 5	June 4-11-11	5 Cullen
1-4 Charles-Jones	2-95 FANCIES FARMELD 24	5 Shaved 6-11-11	J. McCarty
1-5	2-93 RED LIGHT 11 (V)	J. Jeanne 4-11-11	N. Egan (C)
1-6	2-36 RANGER SLOANE 10	10 Swoosh 4-10-11	G. Bradley
1-7	1-92 MR. POPPLETON 73	8 Brotherton 7-10-0	L. Harvey

3-1 Alpine Mist 1-2 Fancies Farmel'd, 4-1 Bully Passion, 6-1 Portfolio, Red Light
 7-1 Ranger Sloane, 10-1 Mr. Poppletton.

EXETER: 1.45 Brynston Square REDCAR: 1.35 Charnians
Daughter, 305 Your Most Welcome WARWICK: 1.25 Riaz!

RUGBY LEAGUE

Betts's Warrior spirit points way for Britain

IT IS no coincidence that throughout a 3-0 series defeat by New Zealand, Denis Betts was consistently Great Britain's most effective performer. The key is the company he keeps. Playing for Auckland Warriors in the Australasian competition has improved every feature of his game. Until all Britain's players can have regular contact with the higher standards in the southern hemisphere, it is impossible to see how the gap can be narrowed.

Christopher Irvine suggests how to close the class divide apparent against New Zealand

Australasian Super League counterparts could mean for the European clubs, the advantages of learning from the best are manifest.

New Zealand's rise is mainly down to Auckland Warriors and their two seasons in the Australasian premiership. Talented individuals have rarely been in short supply. Now they have a unifying focus. Stephen Kearney, Gene Ngamu and Sean Hoppe, who all suffered on the 1993 tour, are a different proposition now. The series has produced outstanding performers in Stacy Jones at scrum half, Syd Eru, the hooker, and John Timu and Ruben Wiki, centres of distinction.

With the world club series scheduled before Australia tour England next October, Britain must make rapid progress to avoid a similar humiliation. Betts and Andrew Farrell, as captain, im-

proved their stock, and Stuart Spruce, Terry O'Connor and Paul Broadbent came to the fore, but after a comparatively untrodden ride in Papua New Guinea and Fiji, an inexperienced side wilted under the far more extreme pressures in New Zealand.

Without Gary Connolly, Jason Robinson, Paul Newlove and Shaun Edwards in the backs, the depth of talent in Britain was exposed as shallow in comparison to New Zealand, who also had their share of absentees. There is no doubting the star potential in the pack with Adrian Morley, Paul Sculthorpe and Keiron Cunningham; half back is where there is a lack of talent coming through.

Doubts persist about the enigmatic Iestyn Harris at stand-off half. At centre or full back, he looks far more dangerous than when shackled by a strict game-plan at No 6. It was not bravery or commitment but sheer class that Britain lacked. Unlucky as they were in the first international, there was no doubt by the third defeat, and the biggest margin of victory by a New Zealand side, as to who were the better team.

Phil Larder's position as Britain coach was not made easy, particularly as some players were completing a 15-month season. Betts showed by his hunger what a rest from the debilitating modern-day game can do.

The party was due to arrive back in Manchester yesterday to the news that many will be appearing in specially-arranged derby matches at Christmas. For all concerned, it would be better if those games were snuffed off.

He said yesterday that possible involvement with Heyford could tempt him to remain in Britain, which he would prefer. The academy would be built on 145 acres of the former United States Air



Setting sights: Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman, of Liverpool, take a rest at Bisham Abbey yesterday as the England squad prepared for the World Cup qualifying tie in Georgia. Repentant Gascoigne, page 52

ACADEMY OF SPORT: JOINT BID ATTRACTS HEAVYWEIGHT BACKING

Heyford hoping to nurture winners

By DAVID MILLER

THE joint bid by Oxfordshire County Council, Cherwell District Council and the British Olympic Association (BOA) to create and manage the new British Academy of Sport at Heyford, Oxfordshire, revealed yesterday, is comprehensive.

Indeed, it might provide the incentive for Steve Redgrave to remain in Great Britain. The four-times Olympic rowing gold medal-winner is considering a coaching offer from Australia for himself and his wife, who is the doctor to the British rowing team.

He said yesterday that possible involvement with Heyford could tempt him to remain in Britain, which he would prefer. The academy would be built on 145 acres of the former United States Air

Force base, close to the M40, near Bicester. The bid was launched yesterday by Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, who said it met "all the criteria of the National Heritage prospectus".

It would occupy a single, greenfield site, as stipulated by the Government, and it is sports-led, the BOA being the agreed "in-house" management.

The Heyford group has some big commercial players on board: Wimpey, Taylor Woodrow, the Vestey Group, Southern Electric, Mars. They will raise £75 million to add to the Government's promised £100 million from lottery funds.

The BOA will pay £1 million per annum from its own resources towards the £9 million annual administrative costs, which are expected to be

substantially met by £8 million annual income.

Craig Reddie, the BOA chairman, is optimistic that the Heyford bid offers the right blend between private enterprise, innovation, and established elite sports management. The Oxfordshire and Cherwell councils have guaranteed permission — a critical factor. Wimpey would build 1,000 homes, including accommodation for 750 athletes, and the project would create 1,500 jobs.

"The Heyford group is happy that the management will be in the hands of sport," Reddie said. "That's a significant difference from other bids and that is why we are comfortable with them."

A key factor in the academy will be the involvement of the three big non-Olympic sports upon which British prestige

resides, along with the Olympic Games: football, cricket and rugby union.

The BOA has had lengthy discussions with all three sports concerning their long-term involvement at Heyford. It is rumoured that the FA is less than happy with its situation at Lillleshall.

Besides those organisations mentioned, Heyford would embrace Oxford University and Oxford Brookes University, the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation and Eton College, which is developing an international two-kilometre rowing course.

Heyford will also be establishing purpose-built technology in the fields of medicine, sports science, research and coaching that will be available to every sport, avoiding repeated and expensive duplication.

SNOOKER

Thailand produce television thriller

FROM PHIL YATES
IN BANGKOK

IN FRONT of a mammoth domestic live television audience, Thailand whitewashed the hapless United Arab Emirates 9-0 to squeeze into the quarter-finals of the World Cup here last night. No other scoreline would have guaranteed qualification for the host country.

When England, the group C winners, could only defeat Pakistan 6-3 earlier in the day — it could have been 5-4 had Mohammed Saleh not missed a straightforward pink when he was on the verge of beating Ronnie O'Sullivan. Thailand's chances of advancement appeared slim.

However, the UAE trio completely froze under pressure. Thailand dominated and, with the exception of a nailbiting eighth frame, in which Tai Pichit potted the blue to edge past Mohammed Sultan al Joker, they were never seriously challenged.

It was a day of conflicting emotions for Wales, who defeated Malta 5-4 to secure first place in group D before receiving the news that Darren Morgan, the captain, would be flying home to be with his mother, who is seriously ill. He will be replaced by Mark Bennett for the quarter-final against Thailand.

Scotland boasted the best record in the round-robin phase when they displaced Canada at the head of group B with an 8-1 victory over Hong Kong. The favourites dropped only seven of 36 frames in booking a quarter-final against Northern Ireland.

Only a 6-3 defeat, or worse, against New Zealand could have prevented Northern Ireland qualifying, but when Mark Canavan won the opening frame against Joe Swail, they were under pressure.

That intensified when Dene O'Kane led Terry Murphy 55-29 in the second frame with only the last five colours remaining. Murphy, of Londonderry, laid the snooker required and cleared to the black to subdue the New Zealand challenge.

Results, page 48



Betts has been playing club rugby in New Zealand

BOWLS

Scots fall prey to home run

FROM DAVID RYAN JONES
IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG, whose bowling population is barely 1,000, is nevertheless brave enough to challenge the world's best bowlers each year, with the expressed intention of exposing home-grown players to competition at the highest level.

The field for the Manulife Regent International Pairs Classic, which got under way here yesterday, contains three world champions and many more who were good enough to compete in the world championships in Adelaide in March.

The first-round success of a select Hong Kong pair against the holders of the title will undoubtedly do wonders for local morale. Willie Lai and Anthony Carstairs did not merely beat Kenny Logan and Alex Marshall, of Scotland, they overwhelmed them, and the 26-17 final score did the winners scant justice.

The Scots, to their credit, bounced back in the floodlit evening session to defeat another local pair, Roger Tse and Tony Yiu, of the Victoria Club, 35-17.

Andy Wills and Stuart Airey, from England, won both their matches against local opposition and Jeremy Henry and Noel Graham, of Ireland, also managed two wins.

CRICKET

Holloake absorbs lesson

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ADAM HOLLOAKE, captain of the England A team in Australia, believes the players can draw valuable lessons from the side's nine-wicket defeat by a New South Wales XI in the opening match, in which Stuart MacGill and Dave Freeman shared 16 England wickets.

To come up against two wrist spinners in the first game, particularly one of the quality of MacGill, was very difficult, considering there are not many bowlers of this type in England," Holloake said, as the side prepared for two matches against South Australia, the Sheffield Shield champions — a one-day game tomorrow and a four-day match over the weekend.

"I am glad we met wrist spin so early in the tour. Now the boys are aware of what they are up against in Australia."

Jason Gallian, who has cracked a bone in his hand, will miss tomorrow's match and Michael Vaughan, of Yorkshire, will open the innings. The Derbyshire fast bowler, Andrew Harris, is expected to play, probably at the expense of Dean Headley.

David Graveney, the touring team manager, who has withdrawn as a candidate for the chairmanship of the England selectors, believes Graham Gooch has all the qualities needed to take over from Raymond Illingworth.

"Graham's status within the game is similar to that of Mike Gatting and Ian Botham. They have been heroes as players, and the man in the street would probably see him as the best choice," Graveney said. "If the person is a respected enough individual, I think it's irrelevant whether he is still a player."

Graveney also said that there could be a role for John Barclay, the former Sussex player, who managed England's tour to South Africa last winter alongside Illingworth. "I share the view that it's crucial that we have some success, and they both have great qualities."

The West Indies were beaten by three wickets by an Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI in the opening match of their tour in Perth yesterday. The Chairman's XI romped to 258 for seven in only 42 overs after West Indies had made 236 for nine in their 50 overs.

The touring side seemed certain winners when the Chairman's XI slumped to 95 for six against Ian Bishop, but Brendan Julian, with 96 from 52 balls, and Tom Moody, with 66 from 74 balls, took a heavy toll of the slow bowlers.

SQUASH

Jackman continues to progress

CASSANDRA JACKMAN'S punishing pursuit of Michelle Martin, the former world champion, continued in the United States on Sunday when she defeated the Australian for the third time in 15 days, winning the Philadelphia Open final 9-6, 10-8, 4-9, 9-4 (Colin McQuillan writes).

With Martin already displaced after nearly four years as world No 1, by her compatriot, Sarah FitzGerald, the new world champion, Jackman's victories in the

world team championship final, the semi-finals of the Carol Weymuller and the Philadelphia Open must take her close to pushing Martin into third place on the next ranking list.

Jackman, 23, from Norfolk, said: "I am benefiting so much from changing my movement patterns and some of my racket work in recent months. It is building my confidence every time I play."

England's success continued in the men's event in

Philadelphia, with Jason Nicol, of Nottingham, beating Stephan Castellan, of Belgium, 15-9, 15-8, 15-8 in the final.

England's top-ranked man, Del Harris, of Essex, was less successful over the weekend, however, in his pursuit of Jansher Khan, the world champion from Pakistan. In the final of the Heliopolis Open in Cairo, late on Sunday night, Jansher defeated Harris, the world No 6, 15-10, 15-11, 15-13.

BASKETBALL

Leopards set for cup classic

By NICHOLAS HARRING

THE Leopards, who completed the line-up for the quarter-finals of the Classic Cola National Cup with their 112-103 win over Chester Jets late on Sunday, will visit Thames Valley Tigers for a place in the last four on November 16.

The victims of an upset by Crystal Palace at the same stage last season, the Bodweiser League's joint leaders advanced this time after scoring 14 successive points early in the second half at Chester. The Tigers had lost seven of their previous eight games before their one-point success over Derby Storm on Saturday.

The three other quarter-finals will take place on November 15. London Towers, the holders, will hope to repeat their early-season league victory over Manchester Giants at Wembley.

Sheffield Sharks, beaten finalists last year and joint league leaders, receive Leicester Riders, one of the surprise teams of the season, and Birmingham Bulls, travel to Newcastle Eagles, their visitors in the league next Saturday.

By then, the Eagles will be able to call on the 6ft 3in American guard, Ralph Blacklock, 22, whom they have signed from Towson State University in Baltimore. QUARTER-FINAL DRAW: London Towers v Manchester Giants; Sheffield Sharks v Leicester Riders; Newcastle Eagles v Birmingham Bulls (to be played on November 15); Thames Valley Tigers v The Leopards (November 16).

EQUESTRIANISM

Wembley discards dressage

By JENNY MACARTHUR

THE Volvo World Cup dressage qualifier is to be dropped from the Horse of the Year Show programme, after only two years, as part of a restructuring of the event.

Wembley Stadium Limited, which leases the show from the British Show Jumping Association (BSJA), has decided that the dressage qualifier, the only one in Great Britain, is not popular enough, too costly and takes up too much time in an already crowded programme.

"We were disappointed that the event did not attract more of the top riders," Jerry Heaver, the show manager, said yesterday. "As we are keen to return to only one arena next year, a lot of hard decisions have had to be taken. There are no sacred cows, something had to go — and it turned out to be the dressage."

Ulf Bergqvist, Volvo's direc-

tor of equestrian sports, expressed regret at the decision. "It will not be easy to find a replacement for the qualifier," he said, "but interest in dressage in Britain is on the increase — perhaps partly due to Volvo — and we hope to be back as soon as possible."

David Hunt, the chairman of the British Horse Society's dressage group, described the decision as "a great loss. Wembley provided an excellent show-window for the sport."

Wembley is now in the third year of its seven-year lease of the show from the BSJA but is still struggling to find a winning formula.

Only 50 per cent of the total seats available were sold for this year's show and Heaver was disappointed that the piece de resistance, the Cadre Noir, for which Wembley paid a six-figure sum, was not as

big a draw as expected. "There were a lot of successful things, especially the new infrastructure, but we need to take the show back to basics — and not be afraid to upset the traditionalists when we make changes," he said.

Changes proposed for next year include running the show from Monday to Saturday — this year it ran from Wednesday to Sunday — and a substantial increase in the prize-money for international showjumping events in order to attract more of the leading riders from overseas.

The time-consuming national showjumping classes, a traditional part of Wembley, will also come under scrutiny. "We're trying to do a total restructuring of the sport as a whole," Heaver said. "We need to have more of a say in what goes on, right down to the qualifying events."

ICE HOCKEY

Devils forced to work overtime

THE Cardiff Devils players will be looking for a little extra money in their pay packets this week, both of their weekend games having gone to overtime (Norman de Mesquita writes).

Against Nottingham Panthers on Saturday, only 71 seconds remained in the tense extra period when Ivan Manuil scored his second goal to give the Devils a 3-2 victory. On Sunday, it was Ian Cooper's second goal of the evening that proved deci-

sive, giving Cardiff a 5-4 win over Newcastle Cobras in the fourth minute of overtime.

Bracknell Bees continue to struggle. They were beaten 3-1 at home by Manchester Storm on Saturday and 7-2 on Sunday by Ayr Scottish Eagles. Basingstoke Bison bounced back from the disappointment of elimination from the Benson and Hedges Cup with an 8-3 win in Manchester.

Peterborough Pirates, facing extinction, attracted a crowd of 1,000 to the 7-4 home

victory against Telford Tigers. They have asked for their next three games to be postponed and it is hoped that a rescue package can be put together.

Some of the penalties assessed after the recent Nottingham-Cardiff game have been increased. Marty Yewchuk, of the Devils, is now out until the end of December, more than doubling his nine-game suspension. Mike Blaisdell, the Nottingham coach, has been given a two-game ban.

PLAYING
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MIDDAY



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TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5 1996

Forwards await England captaincy decision



Leonard: enduring

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

FEW secrets are kept in sport but the name of Will Carling's successor as captain of the England rugby union team is one of them. This season, above all, when the Rugby Football Union and the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs have been like leaky buckets during their long and destructive disputes, the national team management cards have been kept notably close to their chests.

Today at Twickenham, however, the new man will be unveiled and will receive a grilling from the assembled media — all so unlike the start of Carling's record-breaking run in 1988, when he returned a telephone call from Geoff Cooke, then the team manager, and was told that, not only was he still part of the England team against Australia, he was also its captain. Carling was

then 22 and, in his own mind, had yet to cement a place in the side.

Cooke, however, had no doubt that he would be at the heart of the England midfield for years to come and the same argument will apply to today's appointment: above all, the captain must be sure of his place and that may well preclude three of the runners in the leadership stakes — Phil de Glanville, Tim Rodber and Ben Clarke.

A harsh judgment would suggest that, of the present training squad, only four are stone-cold certainties to play against Italy on November 23 and, beyond that, against the New Zealand Barbarians, Argentina and into next year's five nations' championship: Jeremy Guscott, Jason Leonard, Martin Johnson and Lawrence Dallaglio.

De Glanville, articulate and intelligent, would be many people's choice, but for the presence in the centre of

Guscott and Carling, still holding his form as well as ever. Moreover, de Glanville has been injured over the past five weeks and has been unable to press home his claims as a player. Rodber has done that in the Northampton back row but has yet to convince the management of his best place in the back-row unit while Clarke, now playing in the second division with Richmond, may find his move from Bath more costly than he thought.

Jack Rowell, the coach, has already ruled out experimentation against Italy. Accepting the original criteria, then, the captain will be one of the three forwards because Guscott's talent in the centre is best left unfettered by additional responsibilities. Johnson's propensity to concede penalties, at international as well as club level, may well count against him.

That leaves the two players, Leon-

ard and Dallaglio, who have been among the favourites since Carling announced his intention to step down after the game against Ireland last March. The more attractive candidate is Dallaglio who, at 24, has shown immense maturity, stepping into the breach at Wasps when the long Newcastle purse removed Dean Ryan, Rob Andrew and Steve Bates. To play so well in his first full international season, in addition to coping with club duties, was a substantial achievement.

His position in the back row also allows him to appreciate the tactical shifts of a game. Against that, he, like Johnson, has a tendency to voice — if only through his body language — his views of refereeing decisions with which he disagrees and there have been times when Wasps have suffered from an inability to adapt their free-flowing approach to the pragmatism which international rugby will

inevitably demand. The same may be said of Leonard and Harlequins.

However, of all the candidates for the job, Leonard has the most international experience: 49 caps since his debut against Argentina in 1990 and a tour of New Zealand with the British Isles in 1993.

The English are seldom unhappy to be led by a tight forward, though it is not the easiest position from which to judge the ebb and flow of a game. Whether Leonard is assertive enough remains a moot point and he would need to have confidence in his half backs who, whichever combination is chosen, remain inexperienced in international terms.

A bluff, unassuming demeanour masks a competitive spirit and considerable skill and, at 28, he will certainly endure until the 1999 World Cup, if required. However, Rowell's die has long been cast: this morning, he can let the world in on his secret.



Dallaglio: maturing

England coach continues crusade

Hoddle offers Gascoigne better future

BY ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

BENEATH lowering clouds at Bisham Abbey, Paul Gascoigne returned to the England training fold and then confessed his remorse for bearing his wife, Sheryl. Beside him, Glenn Hoddle, having already granted Gascoigne a place in the squad, though still not prepared to confirm his place in the team in Georgia on Saturday, asked us to consider the imponderable: could it be that Gascoigne, having admitted his sin and confronted his future, will re-emerge an even better player?

The conundrum is haunting. No one can say that transforming a man's nature, if that were possible, could successfully extract the wildness and leave intact the performer of near genius.

There are many who cannot accept that playing a game can be described as genius. Yet the goal Gascoigne conjured up against Scotland during Euro 96 was as close to it as any we may see, and the challenge that he and the England coach have embarked upon, must contain the element of risk that, in subduing the errant temperament, they reduce Gascoigne the performer.

In Gascoigne yesterday, there was certainly a kind of courage in a man facing up to his turbulent recent past. "I've done things in the heat of the moment and later regretted them. I've tried to hide them by joking, now I am trying to think before hiding behind the jokes," he said. On the training pitch he did indeed look fit and lean and definitely not the

joker. Yet, no one asked why it took two weeks of counselling, two different counsellors and Hoddle as a mentor, for Gascoigne publicly to state remorse over the wife-beating allegation, whereas he had instantly asked Rangers players to forgive him being sent off for kicking an Ajax player and being sent off in the European Cup.

There were those who applauded his 20 minutes of soul-baring yesterday. Perhaps they had not been present at his many previous moments of contrition, his pledges to let no one down.

There is an evangelical approach to the England management of Hoddle that we have never seen before. It is not only with Gascoigne. Tony Adams was released from camp yesterday afternoon to continue his counselling for alcoholism, just as Paul Merson, his team-mate at Arsenal, had been at the last England gathering.

To lighten the atmosphere, Hoddle threw a party on Sunday, celebrating the 33rd birthday of Ian Wright, another man recalled to the colours. "He's an infectious character, a lovely lad and in training looks as sharp as a razor," Hoddle said of Wright. Those are hardly the words often used about the Arsenal goalscorer, but Hoddle sees the good before the bad in people. "We surprised him with a cake," the England coach said, "but we didn't find enough candles!"

But this was a sideshow. Gascoigne, inevitably, was the focus of the first day's training of this most challenging week for English football.

Hoddle makes no pretence that the counselling, the forgiveness, is a quick fix for Gascoigne. "I'm looking one year down the line," he emphasised, "and it is then we might even see a Paul Gascoigne that nobody has ever seen. There might be adjust-

ments, he might not hit it so often, and might have to provide those moments of magic less often in a game. But Paul's been given a gift, he had it from a very early age, and he's just started facing up to issues in life, to deal with them as he's never done before."

Hoddle, reiterating that he could never condone the violence Gascoigne now admits he inflicted on his wife, gave

an alarming inference that similar problems might be endemic in football. "I dealt with it at Swindon, and at Chelsea," he said. "It's a situation that calls for management. Behind the scenes, I think there are major issues to be faced up to in the game."

If indeed Gascoigne is not alone, who apart from Hoddle will tackle the malaise? At administration levels, decision but Walter Smith, the manager, said: "We had a meeting with Kenny Dalglish before the Ajax match last week, where we put our offer to him."

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Costliest but dullest presidential campaign failed to give voters glimpse of a brave new world

Confident Clinton faces prolonged judicial scrutiny

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BILL CLINTON looks set to become the first Democrat in 60 years to win re-election, not because he commands great affection or because voters believe in his guileless, but because the economy is strong and his opponent weak.

However, America would certainly be taking a risk in electing him, because Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, is nearing the end of his investigations into the Clintons' financial dealings in Arkansas, alleged White House obstruction of those investigations and the scandals over the White House Travel Office and missing files. An indictment of Hillary Clinton, or even the President, is not impossible.

The Supreme Court will also decide whether Paula Jones's sexual harassment case against the President can proceed before Mr Clinton leaves office and Republicans are demanding a special prosecutor to investigate the legality of Asian contributions to the Democrats and whether there were quid pro quos.

During his final rallies Bob Dole gave a warning that Mr Clinton would "spend half his time next year with investigations". Trent Lott, the Republican Senate leader, predicted "big troubles ahead for this President". Mr Perot said Mr Clinton's re-election would mean "a second Watergate and a constitutional crisis".

At an estimated \$800 million (\$490 million), this has been the costliest presidential election, but it has also been one of the least memorable of modern times. Neither candidate was a fresh face. Neither offered a bold new vision, a "big idea" or real passion. There was no central issue, though plenty, including America's role in the world, were ignored.

Graphs of the year's polls show two basically straight horizontal lines, or three if Mr Perot is included. Not one of the hundreds of polls put Mr Dole ahead. "The truth is, nothing has changed for a long time," Scott Reed, the 73-year-old Republican campaign manager, concedes in

this week's *New Yorker* magazine. "We were never able to jolt the race. We thought we joined it when he left the Senate. Then we thought we joined it with our convention. But we didn't."

The networks returned record low viewing figures for the party conventions and presidential debates. They often relegated the election to second or third item on the news, even in the final days.

Today's turnout is expected to be considerably below the 55 per cent who voted in 1992 and, with a Clinton victory seemingly inevitable, the battle for Congress could well be decided by whether complacent Democrats or dispirited Republicans stay at home in greater numbers.

Campaign row: An Iraqi-American family wanting sanctions against Iraq to be eased gave about \$400,000 at a fundraising event attended by President Clinton, the *Detroit Free Press* reported yesterday as controversy over foreign political contributions deepened. (Reuters)



President Clinton takes part in one of the last rallies of the campaign, at Springfield, Massachusetts, where he was supporting local candidates

Time for tears on a sentimental journey

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

AT DAWN today, hours before the polls open, President Clinton will arrive in his home town of Little Rock, Arkansas, after covering the last five states of his campaign in 19 hours.

His adrenalin battling with exhaustion and his voice cracking after six days of round-the-clock rallies, he has said that he is having fun.

"We are trying to squeeze every last ounce of energy out of him," Mike McCurry, the President's spokesman, said late on Sunday. "The paper he signs every thing that is thrown at him. But he had time to catch the high-scoring football game the other night, between the Air Force and Colorado. He

enjoyed that." In the early hours of Monday morning, he kept crowds waiting in Maine while he finished a card game aboard Air Force One.

Mr Clinton personally drafted the gruelling timetable for the last hours of the campaign from his cabin on Air Force One. He told the 200 staff, Secret Service officers and journalists who travelled with him. Eyes swelling with tears, he also said that he had decided to refer to Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Israeli leader, in every speech because he had remembered that November 4 was the anniversary of his death.

In the past few days, the Democratic campaign has sent out 15 million pieces of

mail and made more than 11 million telephone calls in support of the President and other candidates. With opinion polls indicating that Mr Clinton's lead is narrowing in crucial states, he is battling on his own behalf as well as that of congressional candidates.

Mr Clinton's last sweep across the length and breadth of America began early on Sunday in West Palm Beach, Florida, in balmy heat, to a mellow backdrop of 1960s music and a stage decorated with pink plastic flamingos, the President worked a sun-tanned crowd in bikini tops and shorts.

He was given a Girl Scout calendar, a "victorious-looking stick-figure drawing" by a

ten-year-old, and a volleyball, collected solemnly by following staff.

With foreheads still burnt from the Florida sun, aides were disgorged shivering four hours later into the winter chill and gritty streets of Union, New Jersey.

After a warm-up speech by Whoopi Goldberg, the actress, and a few recorded bars of *Born in the USA* by Bruce Springsteen, a native of New Jersey, Mr Clinton called for support for Bob Torricelli in his "protean battle" for a Senate seat.

By 10pm on Sunday, when the aircraft landed in the freezing fog of Springfield, western Massachusetts, in the state's dilapidated factory belt,

the tight timetable was breaking down. The press plane, carrying 120 reporters and technicians, was stranded while an over-watchful Secret Service prevented it from being refuelled. Police, frisking the television crews, insisted on testing all electronics: a hundred yards of Tarmac became a tangled heap of cameras and laptop computers, screens glowing in the dark as the officers tried to find the "off" buttons.

For "sentimental" reasons, the President wanted to start the last day of "the last campaign: I will ever run" in New Hampshire, where the first Democratic primary election to choose the presidential candidate is held.

A LATE NIGHT VIEWER'S GUIDE TO THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS*

INTERESTED	SERIOUSLY INTERESTED	INSOMNIAC	SAD POLITICAL JUNKIE
TUESDAY 11pm-midnight PRESIDENT Earliest exit polls from Indiana and Kentucky will indicate overall direction of race. Robert Dole needs to win Indiana by at least 12 points to have a reasonable chance nationwide. If he loses here, Clinton is heading for a massive victory. SENATE Democrats must hold their seats in Massachusetts and New Jersey. Republicans need to retain Maine and New Hampshire. HOUSE Republican prospects are weaker in the northeast than in most other parts of the US. Expect Republican losses early on. More than ten seats gained by the Democrats here would imply their capture of the House. SENATE Too early for key results. HOUSE Too early to judge.	WEDNESDAY Midnight-2am PRESIDENT Return from the East Coast states will be heavily pro-Clinton, much more so than the rest of the country. Only if Dole can win states like New Jersey is an upset likely. SENATE Democrats defend a set of valuable seats in the South, while Republicans defend a clutch in the West. Unless very close, the outcome on the Senate should be clear by 4am. HOUSE Republicans should win seats in the South while holding steady in the Midwest. If they are not gaining here, their majority is in danger.	WEDNESDAY 2am-4am PRESIDENT Results from the Midwest, the prairie/mountain west, and the South will confirm final result. Dole should do better in South and West while outcome in Midwest will decide the election. SENATE Democrats defend a set of valuable seats in the South, while Republicans defend a clutch in the West. Unless very close, the outcome on the Senate should be clear by 4am. HOUSE Republicans should win seats in the South while holding steady in the Midwest. If they are not gaining here, their majority is in danger.	WEDNESDAY 4am-6am PRESIDENT Barfing complete upset race will be decided. Victory/defeat speeches by Clinton and Dole once last polls have closed in California. SENATE If the race for control is very tight it will be decided in Oregon, where Republicans defend a seat in a generally liberal state. HOUSE Republicans expect to lose seats on the Pacific Coast. Provided they have made some gains in the South, they can afford to lose ten seats there. If not, goodbye Speaker Gingrich.

* BBC 1, Tuesday 11.45pm-Wednesday 5.30am. Radio 5 Live, Midnight-5.45am. Sky News, Midnight-6am

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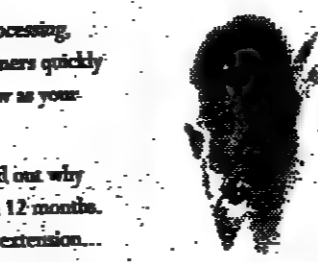
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Test for Chirac as ailing Mobutu swaps luxury Swiss hotel for Riviera villa

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

PRESIDENT MOBUTU of Zaire yesterday left the plush Swiss hotel where he has lived since August and flew by private plane to his luxury villa in the south of France as eastern Zaire plunged deeper into crisis.

The Zairean leader, who has been undergoing prostate cancer treatment at Lausanne's University Hospital, was believed to be

heading for his sumptuous Villa Delmare at Roquebrune-Cap-Martin near Monaco.

President Mobutu, 66, left Geneva airport for the short flight to Nice aboard his private DC8, designed to accommodate his full entourage — including ten bodyguards, two doctors, two drivers, four other servants and a number of family members.

The Swiss authorities have come under domestic political pressure to engineer the removal of Presi-

dent Mobutu, and his monthly visa was unlikely to be renewed this month.

President Chirac, who is attending a Franco-Spanish summit in Marseille, faced criticism over President Mobutu's visit to France last April and the arrival of the Zairean leader has presented Paris with a fresh headache at a time when France is seeking to shed its reputation as a haven for exiled dictators.

Foreign Ministry officials said they did not know President Mobutu had arrived in France and added that it was "highly unlikely" President Chirac would meet his Zairean counterpart, whose human rights record has come under attack in France.

At the weekend France urged "emergency humanitarian action" in Zaire, and called on Europe to prepare for intervention to save more than a million refugees.

President Mobutu was banned from visiting his property on the Côte d'Azur until 1994, when the ban was lifted after Zaire co-operated with the French military Operation Turquoise to stop the Rwandan massacres.

In another mark of his apparent return to favour in France, President Mobutu was permitted to address the International Diplomatic Academy in Paris in April.

The Swiss authorities have made it clear that they will not permit regular visits by President Mobutu to another of his large properties at Savigny, near Lausanne.

President Mobutu's bill at the lakeside Beau Rivage Hotel in Lausanne, believed to have exceeded £750,000, was paid before his departure, according to a hotel spokesman — loose change for man reported to be worth several billion pounds, much of which has been gained from Zaire's diamond and copper mines.

The precise state of President Mobutu's health is unknown. Although aides initially said he was recovering well after a prostate operation on August 22, others have speculated that he may be gravely ill. *Le Monde* reported last week that the Zairean leader's cancer had spread and his aides advocated "complete rest".

A spokesman for the Princess Grace of Monaco Hospital, one of the nearest to President Mobutu's Villa Delmare, said last night that his name had not been registered there.

Zaire rebels call ceasefire to let aid reach Hutus

EASTERN Zaire's rebels yesterday called a unilateral ceasefire to allow emergency relief to be delivered to 1.1 million Hutu refugees and countless Zaireans displaced by uprisings in North and South Kivu.

Laurent Kabila, leader of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for Liberation (Congolese Zaire), said by telephone from his new base in the recently captured city of Bukavu that his forces would cease fire for three weeks to allow the deliveries to the refugees.

"They will be regrouped so that their suffering can be helped by the international community," he said.

In Gisenyi, on Rwanda's border with Zaire, aid agencies awaited permission to cross into Goma, North Kivu's capital, where half a million Hutu refugees are marching into a future certain only of widespread death from hunger and disease.

Meanwhile, the clamour for military intervention to save the refugees grew, with United Nations officials suggesting that Rwanda's Tutsi-led Army might be the best placed to restore order to Zaire. Sadako Ogata, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said the Rwandan Patriotic Army, which has close relations with east Zaire's rebel groups, could seek a UN mandate to set up humanitarian corridors for the delivery of relief and repatriation of the Hutu refugees. She said she foresaw the establishment of a corridor from Goma into Rwanda. "I'd like to have heavy international presence



Calls for military help to save refugees in Zaire are growing. Sam Kiley reports from the Rwanda border town of Gisenyi

in order to give a sense of confidence to the refugees, who are very frightened." Asked if the UNHCR was discussing Western military protection for refugee corridors with Belgium, France and other European Union states, she said: "We are informally contacting various governments."

The French agency Médécins Sans Frontières called for a multinational force to be sent to Zaire to establish safe areas for refugees and arrest thousands of Hutus implicated in the 1994 genocide of Tutsis and Hutu moderates in Rwanda.

The two plans struck many observers as bordering on the bizarre. The UNHCR's proposal could amount to forcibly repatriating Hutu refugees and an endorsement of Rwanda's support for Zaire's rebel movement. The French agency's is less workable, because it would require a force of many thousands of soldiers with orders to pull alleged murderers out of the camps where they live with their families.

Major Emmanuel Ndayiro, Rwanda's spokesman and a senior Ministry of Defence official, did not reject the UNHCR proposal, but insisted that it looked as if the international community was

asking Rwanda to "do its dirty work". He said that if Rwanda were asked to police humanitarian corridors it would have to do so with a mandate from the UN Security Council.

But as Médécins Sans Frontières' vice-president, Jacques de Milliano, observed: "Thousands of people will be dying every day in eastern Zaire. We do not have time to waste on long-winded diplomatic initiatives if they are to be saved. After years of experience in the region, where cholera and dysentery are endemic, you don't need a scientific survey to know that the refugees are dying."

James Fennel, Care International's head of emergency programming, endorsed the UNHCR's proposals to ask Rwanda to restore order and allow humanitarian relief to be delivered in Zaire. "The only permanent solution would be if the refugees were encouraged to go back to Rwanda," he said.

Aid flights: A Dutch Air Force plane chartered by UNHCR landed at Entebbe, Uganda, with 30 tonnes of aid for eastern Zaire, the United Nations children's agency said. Four more aircraft are due to arrive with another 120 tonnes of aid this week. (Reuters)

Letters, page 21



A soldier said to be from Rwanda and to have been captured in eastern Zaire is guarded in the Zairean capital, Kinshasa, yesterday

Pressure mounts on Mandela to intervene in crisis

FROM INIGO GILMORE
IN JOHANNESBURG

THE international community is looking to South Africa to take the lead in finding a solution to the turmoil in Zaire. But so far President Mandela has not been keen to step into the crisis brewing in Central Africa.

At home, too, unease is mounting at Pretoria's failure to lead from the front. A leading article in a national newspaper at the weekend called on Mr Mandela to

provide the moral leadership our continent cries out for."

In recent years, the West has pushed for African solutions to African problems and President Mandela has figured prominently in this calculation. But Mr Mandela, ever mindful of foreign intervention, has indicated he will only respond to such an initiative from the United Nations or the Organisation of African Unity. The country was recently dismissive of an American attempt to get it to take the lead in setting up a regional

crisis reaction force to deal with crises such as that developing in Zaire.

One reason for Pretoria's reticence is because of its embarrassing blunder over human rights abuses in Nigeria. In his first high-profile foreign policy test, Mr Mandela suffered a setback when he expressed moral indignation at the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the Nigerian writer and activist, and called for harsh measures against the Nigerian junta, only to back down under pressure from

regional partners and members of his Government.

South Africa, his since struggled to establish a foreign policy focus, and Mr Mandela's stance reflects the line adopted by other African nations. It also cannot be a honest broker since it has been supplying weapons to the Rwandan Government.

While Mr Mandela has not ruled out sending a peace-keeping force, trying to separate factions in a complex ethnic war is a grim prospect. Yet his Government is a sym-

bol of hope in a continent of despair and many — in the West and the region — are looking for effective leadership from him.

Greg Mills, director of the Institute of International Affairs here, said: "If South Africa wants to be taken seriously as a world player, it will have to do its bit." He added: "It is in the national interest to do so because of the effect on Africa's image and South Africa will slip in the prestige rankings unless we take a firmer line."

The great escape.

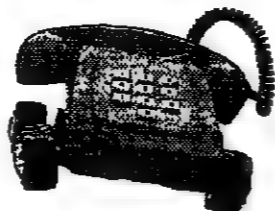
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US attacks Iraqi radar site again

Washington: For the second time in three days, an American F16 warplane yesterday fired a missile at an Iraqi anti-aircraft installation in the southern no-fly zone (Martin Fletcher writes).

The Pentagon said the pilot believed he was being targeted by the installation's surface-to-air missile system. The pilot in the first incident had attacked on similar grounds but the Pentagon later admitted he had been mistaken.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry denies both incidents.

Ex-envoy accused of child sex

Sydney: John Holloway, 53, former Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, was accused at Canberra magistrates' court of paying a 14-year-old boy £1.25 for sex in the gardens of a Phnom Penh temple (Roger Maynard writes). The youth, who was flown to Australia, gave evidence that Mr Holloway's driver picked him up another time and drove to his house, where he had oral sex.

Sri Lanka leader is cremated

Kelaniya, Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka's first executive President, Junius Jayewardene, was cremated amid tight security at this temple town near the capital, Colombo, after elaborate Buddhist funeral rites. Monks chanted as the coffin containing the body of Jayewardene, 90, who died of cancer on Friday, was draped in a national flag. (AP)

Defences down

Minsk: President Lukashenko of Belarus chose General Aleksandr Chumakov as temporary replacement for the Defence Minister, Lieutenant-General Leonid Maltsev, sacked after attending a ceremony too drunk to read a speech, Interfax reported. (AP)

Bokassa the cruel, emperor and killer, dies aged 75

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

THE former self-styled Emperor of the Central African Republic, Jean-Bédel Bokassa, whose 13-year dictatorship was marked by delusions of grandeur, extravagance and cruelty on an epic scale, has died aged 75.

He suffered a fatal heart attack on Sunday night at the main hospital in Bangui, capital of the impoverished nation he ruled until he was ousted in a French-backed coup in 1979. The former leader had been suffering from kidney and cerebral problems and hypertension, and had a brain haemorrhage last year.

Hours after Bokassa's death was confirmed by Jean Charles Bokassa, one of his 54 children, several thousand mourners assembled outside the hospital.

In 1966, six years after the country gained independence from France, Bokassa, a lieutenant-colonel risen from the ranks of the French colonial army, seized power. He established a regime that became more fantastic and capricious with every year as he declared himself emperor, progressively. Life President, Father of the Nation and then Emperor Bokassa I of the Central African Empire.

Modelling himself on Napoleon Bonaparte and claiming descent from the pharaohs, Bokassa created a one-man cult of which he was the principal devotee. Bokassa was once one of France's closest African allies, but politicians in Paris were noticeably silent yesterday on his death.

His "imperial coronation" in 1977 cost a quarter of the country's annual foreign exchange earnings and his diamond-studded crown and robes, fashioned by 25 Parisian seamstresses, were valued at £4 million.

France's interest in the lucrative uranium trade of its former colony, ensured the support of Paris for much of Bokassa's rule. But the links between the nations brought scandal amid allegations that former President Giscard d'Estaing, a friend and some-



Bokassa in diamond-studded crown stands at his coronation before his two-tonne gilded throne

time hunting partner of the African leader, had accepted a gift of diamonds from the dictator. The charges contributed to the French leader's election defeat in 1981.

As his despotism, avarice and brutality mounted, Bokassa's French backers came to see him as a serious liability. In 1979, more than 100 schoolchildren were massacred after they complained about the expense of their new and elaborate school uniforms, which were designed by Bokassa. Within months, French troops moved in to reinstate the country's first President, David Dacko, Bokassa's nephew.

A recipient of the Légion d'Honneur and Croix de Guerre, Bokassa spent seven years in quiet but unhappy exile in France and Ivory Coast until 1986, when he abruptly returned home, mistakenly expecting to be acclaimed by the populace. He was immediately put on trial for murder, embezzlement, infanticide and cannibalism.

During the three-month trial prosecutors presented horrific evidence of his atrocities, including gruesome and doubtless exaggerated allegations of cannibalism.

Witnesses said that the body of a murdered schoolteacher was kept on a meat hook in the freezer of Bokassa's imperial palace. His former chef claimed that Bokassa ate cooked human flesh "with relish" and enjoyed watching foreign dignitaries consuming his political opponents in the belief that they were being served roast beef. "I am not a cannibal," he told the court, in floods of tears.

The self-styled "13th Apostle of Christ" was finally acquitted of cannibalism, but condemned to death for murder. The sentence was first commuted to hard labour for life then to 20 and finally to 10 years in prison. He was freed after only six years in September 1993.

Obituaries, page 25

American killed by Moscow gangsters

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

THE gangland murder of Moscow's most outspoken foreign businessman has sent a chill through the expatriate community, which had been largely spared the bloody consequences of doing business in Russia.

Paul Tatum, one of the first American entrepreneurs to work in the Russian capital, was shot 11 times in the back on Sunday only yards from his office in the Radisson-Slavanskaya Hotel, of which he was a founding partner in the early Nineties. The police believe that the attacker, who used a Kalashnikov machine-gun, was a contract killer. They said he dropped the weapon at the scene and escaped in a white Lada.

Scores of prominent figures have been murdered, including bankers and leading figures in the media, but the killers are rarely caught.

"People are disturbed by this murder," Peter Charov, head of the American Chamber of Commerce in Moscow, said. "We urge the Russian authorities to take swift decisive measures to bring those responsible to justice. Otherwise it will send a very negative signal to Western investors."

The American Embassy said it would be "inappropriate to speculate on a motive for the murder". However, before his death, Mr Tatum had said that he felt under threat from his estranged partners at the Radisson-Slavanskaya Hotel, where President Clinton and other visiting dignitaries often stay.

Mr Tatum, 41, from Oklahoma, had planned to build a business empire, but he fell out with his Russian partners. Once he was locked out of his offices and had to force his way in with the help of hired bodyguards.

At the time, Mr Tatum appealed to Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, to clean up the city government, which owns a controlling stake in the hotel. "If they do not act immediately, investors and foreign companies will shy away from Russia," he said. "Who would come to a Chicago mob town of the 1930s to invest their money?"

Decks cleared for midweek bypass surgery on Yeltsin

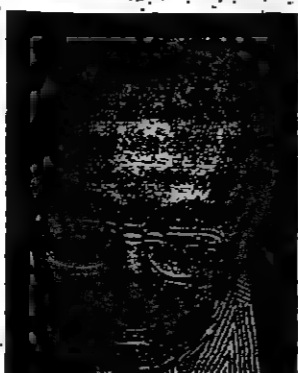
BY THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE top American heart specialist, Dr Michael DeBakey, met Russian doctors yesterday at the sanatorium outside Moscow where President Yeltsin has been resting for the past few weeks, to decide when the Russian leader should undergo heart surgery. Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the President's spokesman, declined to comment on the possible timing of the surgery, but said Mr Yeltsin would be moved to the Moscow Cardiology Centre at least a day before surgery. His condition was last night described as "completely satisfactory".

The most likely date for Mr Yeltsin's triple or quadruple bypass operation is thought to be tomorrow or Thursday, the anniversary of the October Revolution, which is a public holiday in Russia.

Most journalists and printers will not be working then, and this should make it easier for the Kremlin to put the most favourable possible gloss on the result of the operation.

Kenneth Alchurin, who trained in Texas with Dr DeBakey, will lead the operation, which officials have stressed will be carried out only by Russian doctors. Dr DeBakey, 88, has rejected suggestions that Mr Yeltsin is more ill than is being officially admitted. He told the BBC



DeBakey: President's prospects 'excellent'

World Service last week that the preparation period for the operation had cleared up the President's other main health problems — anaemia, loss of blood, and thyroid dysfunction. He said there was a 2 to 4 per cent chance of failure.

The surgery is expected to take about seven hours. Dr DeBakey said if all went well, Mr Yeltsin's prospects were "excellent" and "he should be able to resume normal duties in six weeks or two months".

President Yeltsin's former close friend, confidant and bodyguard, Aleksandr Korzhakov, has stepped up the feud with his former chief by lodging a defamation suit against him. A court in the west Moscow district, where

both men still live on the same floor of the same house, confirmed yesterday that General Korzhakov had filed the action. The former KGB officer, who was last week stripped of all military duties and the right to wear uniform, is accusing Mr Yeltsin of insulting his "honour and dignity".

He is demanding a public retraction of charges that he disclosed Kremlin secrets and slandered Mr Yeltsin's family. The two men have been spared the embarrassment of seeing each other recently because of Mr Yeltsin's stay in hospital.

General Korzhakov's accusations have been only one element in a swirling storm of political feuds that has blown up in the President's absence. Mr Yeltsin has not been seen on television since he cancelled all official meetings last week on doctors' orders, and has been out of the public eye since before the second round of the presidential election on July 3.

The day-to-day running of the country has fallen increasingly into the hands of the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and the Kremlin chief of staff, Anatoli Chubais. For a limited time during and after the operation, Mr Chernomyrdin will become acting President.



A policeman stands guard outside the Cardiology Research Centre yesterday

Stasi set up steroid clinic at Olympics

FROM REUTERS
IN BERLIN

A SECRET medical facility was set up by communist East Germany outside the Olympic Village at the 1976 Montreal Games where athletes were given performance-enhancing steroids, German officials said yesterday.

The state authority examining documents left behind after unification by the Ministry for State Security (Stasi) said it had evidence that East Germany had been particularly meticulous in Montreal.

After the Games, the Stasi "dumped ten suitcases of drugs and hypodermic syringes in the St Lawrence River", Peter Busse, director of the authority, told German radio. Herr Busse said that the paraphernalia was partly destroyed before disposal "so that nobody would know where they came from in case they were found".

East Germany won 90 medals at the Montreal Games, including 40 gold medals, second only to the Soviet Union. Years ago the authority had uncovered evidence that East German athletes had received steroids. But the new findings showed that East Germany was especially well organised in its efforts to win Olympic medals.

Herr Busse called for compensation for East German athletes who were coerced into taking steroids to improve their performance.

New Bulgarian leader to speed market reform

By ROGER MOYSE



A jubilant Petar Stoyanov celebrates victory in Sofia

BULGARIA'S top divorce lawyer, Petar Stoyanov, has beaten his Socialist rival to become the country's new Head of State in a move that is sure to put pressure on the left-wing Government.

The trend against East European post-Communist parties was also confirmed yesterday in Romania, where conservative market reformers led by Professor Emil Constantinescu emerged a clear 10 points ahead of President Ion Iliescu's Social Democrats in parliamentary elections. The presidential

vote, between Mr Iliescu and Professor Constantinescu, will go into a second round on Sunday in search of a clear majority.

The Bulgarian presidency is less powerful than the Romanian but Mr Stoyanov, 44, seems set to speed the demise of the post-Communist Government of Zhan Videnov. The Government is floundering as it prepares for what may well be one of the most miserable winters since the war. Its vulnerability was underlined by the visit to Sofia of a team of economists from the International Monetary Fund, which has been

threatening to delay a \$115 million (£71 million) credit because of the Government's tardy privatisation. Without this hard currency, the Prime Minister told the IMF on Sunday, it will be difficult to hold the value of the lev, the national currency, to cover food imports during the winter and to service debts.

Mr Stoyanov's role will be to ensure that the Government accelerates market reforms. Sixty-four loss-making state enterprises are supposed to be liquidated and 50 others privatised.

Leading article, page 21

Milosevic sees way to federal job smoothed

By DESSA TREVISAN

FIRST results in the Yugoslav elections signalled a clear victory for Slobodan Milosevic's left-wing coalition last night. The Socialists claimed they would have a majority in parliament, clearing the way for President Milosevic to assume the federal presidency in a year's time when his present term as President of Serbia expires.

According to the first indicators, voter turnout in the Sunday poll was more than 50 per cent. The opposition coalition Zajedno (Together) won about 23 per cent of the vote, less than half the support of Mr Milosevic's Socialists.

The Radical Party, which fell out with Mr Milosevic, said it was pleased with its third-place finish, with about 18 per cent of the vote.

The election results will enable Mr Milosevic to portray himself to the West as a moderate alternative to the Radicals, who reject the American-brokered peace treaty that ended the war in Bosnia.

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Love won't inspire the white cells

While Harold Brodkey was dying from Aids, he kept a journal that became a lyrical and moving testament of love to his wife, Ellen

SPRING 1993

I DON'T want to be defensively middle-class about this, but it was a middle-class decision I made, nothing glorious, to try to go ahead and have Aids, live with it, for a while. I felt the doom was bearable. Also I was not, am not, young. I am not being cut down before I have had a chance to live. Most important, I was not and am not alone. I am embarrassed to be ill and to be ill in this way, but no one yet has shown disgust or revulsion. I expected it.

Barry [Brodkey's doctor], who is very able and very experienced, is surprised that I am not more depressed. He says cheerfully that I am much more upset than I realise. He credits some of the medicines with shielding me, my mood, and warns me that severe unhappiness is coming, but so far it hasn't come. I have resisted it, I suppose. And my wife is with me every moment. I feel cut off from old age, it's true, but that's not like some one young feeling cut off from most of his or her possible life.

I wanted to make a defiant gesture at Aids. The disease and its coercions were contemptible. I figured that later on I would make friends with it while it killed me, but not yet. This performance started Ellen, who assumed that I would break down.

She left her husband for me. She walked out on everything. No one backed her but her children. That first night in the hospital she tried to make up her mind that it was all worth it, but such matters are hard to resolve when you're alone. She tells me that she felt terrified and lost. She insists that she regrets nothing. She cried when she learnt that she was clear of the virus; she said it depressed her to be so separated from me. And I felt that if I had Aids, she had the right, perhaps the duty, to leave me; my having that disease suspended all contracts and emotions — it was beyond sacrament and marriage. It represented a new state, in which we did not exist. What we were had been dissolved. Perhaps the sacrament remained, but it was between her and her beliefs now; care wasn't, in my view, owed to me any more. I wasn't me, for one thing. And she had suffered enough.



"In the hospital, I could not rest without Ellen's protection or eat or drink or go to the john without her help. It is not so different from being in love, this dependence; it is exaggerated, yet not unfamiliar"

It is odd to think of actual fate as being in constant motion inside you. How badly suited I am for having a fate only Ellen knows. How damaged my body is by the virus only will become apparent at my death. The fundamental situation is all clarity and obscurity; a doomed boxing match with a sub-microscopic virus that can have no real sense of the identity of its opponent and yet which, in its micro-ignorance, must win. It eats you alive. There is a tube in your nose, medicines drip and dissolve through the needles in your arms, partly banishing the spectre of death; it peers at you from the dark corners of the room. One is something of a child again, afraid of the dark again.

In the hospital, I couldn't rest without Ellen's protection or eat or drink or go to the john without her help. It's not so different from being in love, this dependence; it is exaggerated, yet not unfamiliar.

ated, yet not unfamiliar.

LATE WINTER 1994

I remember one night after leaving the hospital last spring, and we were in the living room, holding hands and watching television. Ellen asked, for the first time since we learnt I had Aids: "Do you love me?"

I looked her in the face and said does that possibly matter now? And: "Ellen, I feel too disgusting, too subhuman to talk about love. And I've told you: I feel everything is occurring in a flat world, without dimension, without future, without colour. Obviously I care about what you do. Obviously I love and admire you. But I am an object of charity."

In the hospital, I couldn't rest without Ellen's protection or eat or drink or go to the john without her help. It's not so different from being in love, this dependence; it is exaggerated, yet not unfamiliar.

'She cried when she learnt she was clear of the virus'

"Will you kiss me?" she said.

"Ellen, I'm filthy with Aids. I have viruses crawling in me, hideous — hideous wrigglers. I smell to high heaven. I don't want to kiss anyone..."

"I've been bathing you. You don't smell." Then she tried another line of connection between her world and mine: "Tell me you love me."

"Why? Do you think I'm dying? You think we'd better have a full farewell now?"

"No. Of course not. I just want to know. I want you to tell me."

"Because of the Aids? Because I'm so sick?" (The because being a way of hiding in spite of.)

"I just want to know."

"Of course I love you. So what? Love won't inspire the white cells." She was trying to cure me. "Shhh, I know that."

she said. I could feel her knowledge in me like a small, clear, delicate motion of the air, a response to the shame and apology in me. She moved closer. "Don't be difficult."

It didn't matter if she pre-

tended I was sexy. The hollowness and greyness were embarrassingly clear. I joked about it. "I'm a dead man," I said. I spoke in very slow motion, and with what sympathy I could, leaving without wanting to and for her being left behind: "I love you; I always loved you."

"These stirrings of mischief and of a refusal to be apologetic meant I believed her, that I mattered, that I was not quite dead. The course and conduct of the illness, how I looked — all of it might have driven me mad with nervous fear and self-concern, but I judged my condition by watching her. And by teasing her. We hadn't had time to be this innocent with each other since I began publishing books. We hadn't had a time with so little ugliness in it."

We had our moments. They occurred throughout the day but came to a climax of sorts each evening as we lay side by side and held hands and watched television, with one of us saying: "This is really OK, right? I'm not imagining it?"

The other would say: "No, you're not imagining it. I feel OK, too."

"I feel really shitty, but actually — uh, you under-

stand? — I haven't often been this happy," I said one evening.

"I know. It's so strange." Ellen said. "I'd give it up in a minute for your health."

She kissed me. "This is really terrible," she said in her omnipotent angel voice. "This is really terrible," she said in her omnipotent mother voice. "Tell me that you love me," she said in her lonely, ordinary, wounded, woman's voice.

SUMMER 1994

This morning, on what may be one of my last visits to our country house, when I drove into town to get the paper, I saw a man who was my height and built something like me, but he was about 35, and healthy. For a second it was as if I had been split down the middle by an axe.

Ellen looks well today, even radiant. It is the fresh air and the garden. From my study window, I can see her working; her light vigour and dexterity and strength are reassuring, but also a bit

'I was happy, over the burning pits of illness'

shocking. How alive she is. Nothing quite moves me like the sight of health.

We are quite happy today; really, I don't know what anything costs Ellen any more. When I look at her, she masks everything — and sympathy — and waiting. Well, she

shows affection and amusement. I can make her cry by saying: "Don't ask me about the attic fan; do it the way you want it." With the implication, of course, that I won't be here. The book is always closing.

OCTOBER 25, 1995

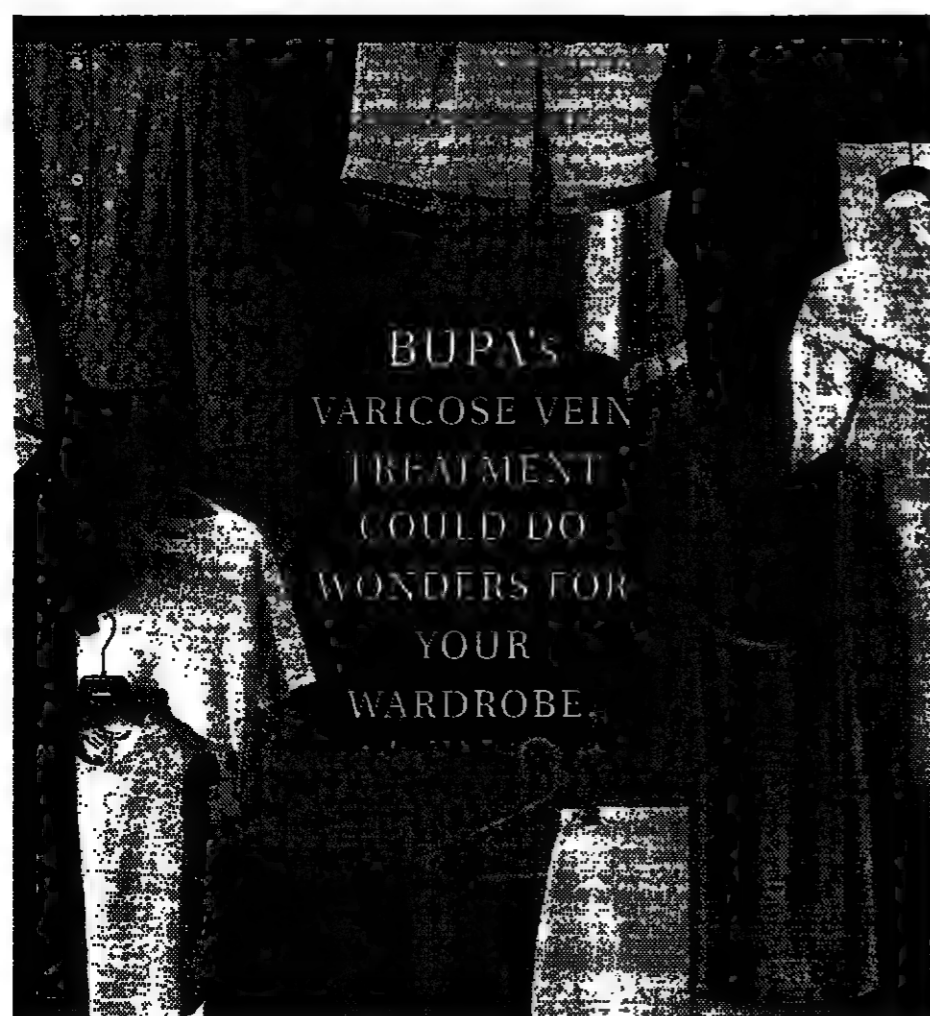
It is my birthday. For the first time in my adult life, it matters to me that the age I have reached is a specific number. I am 65, but it is not so much that I am 65 as the idea of birth

and near old age and now death. I do not know at what speed I am moving towards my death. Strange alterations of the self occur: a hope of cure, a half-belief in treatments.

I have started to die again. I made a recovery; but then collapsed. It is unbelievably strange to live when things run over. I said I was sorry, really sorry, to be so much work, and she said: "Harold, you were always this much work. All that is different is that I give you meals in bed and I cry when you are in pain."

And I am still writing, as you see. I am practising making entries in my journal, recording my passage into non-existence. This identity, this mind, this particular cast of speech, is nearly over.

© Abridged from *This Wild Darkness: The Story of My Death* by Harold Brodkey, published by Fourth Estate on November 11, £4.99.



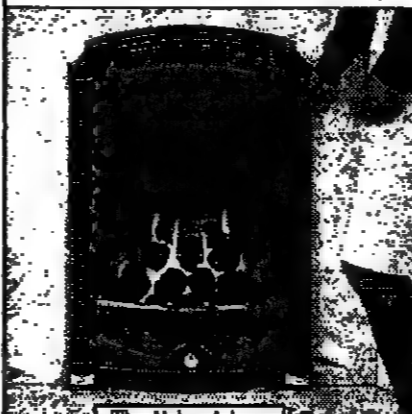
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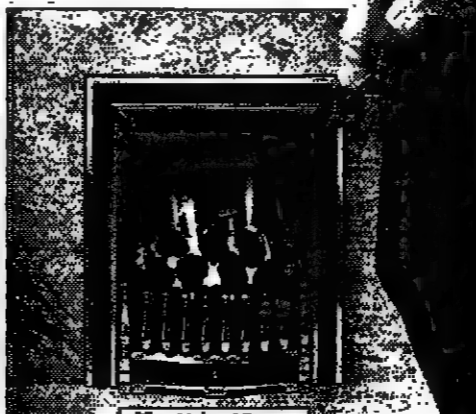
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LOOK BACK

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WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY

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POETRY AND REMEMBRANCE

Courage needed for a hard and brutal business

THE actual business of fighting has always been hard, brutal and unglamorous, and it provides poets with some of their greatest challenges. Before the invention of gunpowder, fighting men had to be strong and powerful because their personal survival depended upon their prowess with their weapons in hand-to-hand fighting. The one quality which a soldier has to show is courage. He does not have to be particularly clever — in fact a positive disadvantage, as Wilfred Owen pointed out — or imaginative. "Dullness best solves the tease and doubt of shelling." But what a soldier needs above all is steadfastness under fire, especially when his colleagues are falling about him.

The invention of gunpowder transformed warfare. It meant that death could be delivered from a distance

KENNETH BAKER

The Faber Book of War Poetry is available to readers of The Times at the special reduced price of £17, a saving of £3 off the publisher's price. To order, call The Times Bookshop on 0345 660916

CHRISTOPHER LOGUE

from War Music: An Account of Books 16 to 19 of Homer's Iliad

Fate's sister, Fortune, favours those
Who keep their nerve.
Thetis was not like this.
He lost his head, first; then his life.
His chariot bucked too slow over the rusted corpse,
And as Patroclus drew abreast of him,
The terrified boy let the horses baulk,
Leaving the reins to flow beside the car,
And covered in its varnished basket,
Weeping.

They passed so close that hub skinned hub.
Ahead, Patroclus braked a shade, and then,
And gracefully as men in oilskins cast
Snake insects over trout, he speared the boy.

And with his hip his pivot, prised Thetis up and out
As easily as later men detach
A sardine from an opened tin.

HOMER

from The Iliad, Book XI

Then to th' extremest heat of fight he did his valour turn,
And led a multitude of Greeks, where foot did foot subdue.
Horse slaughter'd horse, Need feather'd flight, the batter'd
centre flew
In clouds of dust about their ears, rais'd from the horses'
hooves.

That beat a thunder out of earth as horrible as Jove's.
The king, persuading speedy chase, gave his persuasions way
With his own valour, slaught'ring still, as in a stormy day

In thick-set woods a ravenous fire wraps in his fierce repair
The shaken trees, and by the roots doth toss them into air.
Even so beneath Atrides' sword flew up Troys flying heels.
Their horse draw empty chariots, and sought their thundering
wheels
Spine fresh directors through the field, where least the pursuit
drives.

Thick fall the Trojans, much more sweet to vultures than their
wives.

Translated from the Greek by George Chapman

'Nineties woman looks as if she can deal with anything from modelling to lambing'



Fat has no place in the fantasy world of fashion, where only thin, beautiful models can cast an ethereal spell, says Mary Quant

A terrible rumour hit the fashion field last week — Condé Nast is starting a new fashion magazine, using fat models. This is a bit like hearing that champagne will have no bubbles. Fashion models are not real, just as real people are not models. Fashion may be for everybody, but modelling fashion is not. Fashion begins as a fantasy and dream, which only becomes real by everyday use.

So I found it a huge relief to see that *Encore*, the new magazine, is simply a very good advice service and advertisement by Evans, the outsize store for outsize women or for those going through a fat patch.

I personally, like myself thin. I hate it when I get fat. We know a great deal about diet and exercise these days, so why should we be fat? Just leave out the butter and bacon and be as greedy as you like with everything else, like olive oil, parma ham, vegetables, garlic, pasta, rice, fresh parmesan and fruit.

French women have always understood how and why to be slim. They even manage to avoid adolescent fat to stay healthy and slender. Mothers pass body awareness on to their daughters. You may see French women enjoying enormous family lunches — but later that day they will have avocado and oranges for supper.

There is no doubt that women are getting bigger, thanks to the pill, better nutrition and health, exercise, sport and probably sheer confidence. But bigger need not mean fatter. The advice in *Encore* is very good if one is going through a fat patch — waiting until you get thin.

Women have always been good at rearranging their shape to fit the fashion ideal of the moment. As style changes, so we move, talk, and even sit in different ways to emulate it.

In the Forties fashion was controlled; one only has to think of Celia Johnson's *Brief Encounter* voice — dry, clipped — and hair. Shoes were neat and intellectual, thighs were long and

the knees sat together. The Forties model was lean and abstemious.

By the Fifties, the dream model took on the hourglass shape of Brigitte Bardot, with a round bosom, bottom and pout. She was curvy but never fat — she did not sit down but leapt about.

The Sixties model became a thin child-woman, who stalked on boots and stood with legs astride, head down and with a faintly affected, knock-kneed pose known as the "wet-knicker stance". Hair was Vidal Sassoon geometric, eyes sooty and enormous, and there was little emphasis on the mouth.

In the Seventies the ideal model had, lemon-yellow, long, wispy hair, wore fluid crepey flaring clothes and always sat cross-legged on the floor. She was vegetarian and thin and lived on carrots and slimming pills.

Then in the late Seventies the fashion world had a change of focus. It was about this time that I first saw the photographer Jimmy Worrister use women athletes to model clothes. I thought they looked wonderfully attractive and sexy; I realised he had something there. I had also begun to notice that women

athletes were becoming sexier, and then I realised that our viewpoint had changed. The fashion world's ideal had become sporty, chic and sexy — well-trained, oiled female muscles had become the rage.

As a follow-on, the Eighties model woman had to have big shoulders and a working woman's briefcase. She was a company executive who sat with her legs crossed and went to the gym.

Now we are in the Nineties, we have found a balance at last. Models have sporting, athletic silhouettes and wear delicious feminine fabrics which are long, lean and minimalist. A Nineties woman sits with her legs well apart and leans back.

The Nineties ideal of beauty is epitomised by the model Stella Tennant. She is all class and good bones, and waves at street fashion with a ring in her nose and her navel.

Her erogenous zone is a delicious gap of perfection between her waist and hipster pants, and her hair is plastered to the head except for a chunk at the back, which looks as if it has been struck by lightning. She has a wonderfully arrogant look, as if to say she can deal with anything from modelling to lambing.

Every ten years or so, those of us who work in the fashion world go through a phase of rejecting thin models. Why use them, we argue, when all they do to remind everyone else that they are fat? So we photograph clothes flat on the floor, or drape them over tailor's dummies, or dangle them from coat hangers.

But in no time at all we find ourselves wanting thin, beautiful models back, because they cast an ethereal spell on even the simplest clothes. After all, what

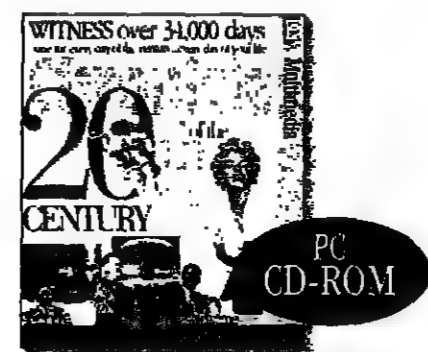
are models for? They bring romance and magic to simple, elegant clothes and transfer their confidence to us, so we are encouraged just to try the clothes or buy them. If a dress is beautifully cut and made, it will work on almost any body shape, and will make the wearer feel and look terrific. A black polo-neck sweater will be all the better because you saw it photographed on Linda Evangelista.

Models are to the rest of us what racehorses are to the equine world. Their bones stick out in the right places in a sahn sheath dress. They achieve the impossible arch of the back and curve of the rump, which makes a tweed suit look ravishing, and the gloss and sheen of their flesh and curve of their nipples make even a cotton T-shirt look like gossamer.

ON THIS DAY 1991



Robert Maxwell found dead
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Blueprint for a region at peace

Malcolm Rifkind outlines his initiative for the Middle East

I am visiting the Middle East at a time of great tension, but also of opportunity. In my meetings with the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and the Palestinian President, Yasser Arafat, I have put forward six points which would help to restore momentum to the peace process.

First we need a deal about Hebron. That is why I visited the city on Sunday: to symbolise British and international support for a final agreement on Israeli redeployment as an essential first step in reviving the peace process. That must lead to fulfilment of the other obligations in the interim agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. We are seeking a commitment from Israel to redeploy troops elsewhere on the West Bank and to reopen the border between Israel and Gaza to facilitate economic activity. In parallel we need to see the reopening of the "final status" talks. These cannot avoid the hard issues, such as Palestinian self-determination and the status of Jerusalem. Nor should either side seek to preempt the negotiations by excluding anything that is crucial to the other side, such as the Palestinian desire for statehood. Peace and security are not alternatives, but two sides of the same coin. Diminish one, and the whole currency is degraded.

In all this, the Palestinians will need to continue to show moderation, respect for democratic principles and dedication to the path of negotiation. There can be no place for extremists or violence. The aim must be a comprehensive peace, with the Syrian and Lebanese negotiations restored.

I have met the EU's new envoy to the Middle East, and I urge the parties to co-operate with him. The EU wants to complement America's work, not to compete with it. The international community also has a role in promoting stability in the Gulf. That means opposing acts of aggression by Saddam Hussein of Iraq. I recognise that the Iraqi people are suffering as a result of sanctions and I deeply regret this, but relaxing the sanctions without Iraq's full compliance with the relevant UN resolutions would not help. Saddam Hussein would devote his resources not to feeding his people, but to rebuilding his military machine. That is why, last year, we devised Resolution 986, the so-called "oil for food" scheme. Iraq is still obstructing its implementation. I can only look forward to the day when Iraq is no longer ruled by a regime that ignores international obligations and brutalises its people. Such an Iraq would need international support, but the country's isolation could then end.

We must also keep watch on Iran. Although it professes a wish to play a constructive role, its actions tell a different story. Iran's development of weapons of mass destruction, its opposition to Middle East peace, and its support for terrorist groups all make it

hard to contemplate normal relations. Yet we have not sought to isolate Iran. With our European partners we are engaged in a critical dialogue, trying to bring about an improvement in Iran's policies. We have seen some small changes, but the results so far are deeply disappointing.

The region's varied problems challenge the international community. To deal with them, we need to encourage co-operation between all the countries of the region, the Arab states, Turkey and Israel, with the help of friends outside, such as Britain, France, the United States and others. We need a structure comprehensive in its membership and wide-ranging in its functions.

In Europe we have learnt how regional co-operation can heal the distrust between former enemies through bodies such as the European Union, Nato, the Western European Union and the Council of Europe, each with its separate purpose and membership. But we have also learnt the value of having a comprehensive body in which every nation can come together on a basis of equality to work on problems which affect them. The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, initially an ice-breaker, has evolved into the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, a vehicle for co-operation over a very wide area indeed.

There would be clear benefits in establishing what might be called an Organisation for Co-operation in the Middle East. This would provide a forum for dialogue and active collaboration, for lowering barriers and improving links. Such an organisation would evolve, rather than spring fully-fledged into existence. It could play a role in resolving conflicts and in building confidence, in fighting the causes of terrorism and building the sort of economic and political networks that prevent conflict and reduce the risks of terrorism. I would expect that in due course countries such as Iraq and Iran to find their places in such an organisation, once their behaviour permitted it.

An Organisation for Co-operation in the Middle East would not be a substitute for the essential work of the peace process. There must be no diversion from that. The relationship between Israel and the Palestinians, like those between Israel and Syria and Lebanon, will have to be worked out bilaterally. But one natural function for such an organisation would be to support and build on the peace process.

I have launched the idea of an Organisation for Co-operation in the Middle East, and we are discussing it with our friends in the region and elsewhere. It would help to ensure peace, progress and stability in the Middle East, objectives that are crucial to British interests as well as to those of its inhabitants.

The author is the Foreign Secretary.



Gunpowder and Currie

Fireworks can and do kill, but that is no reason to ban them from our back gardens. On the contrary

Tonight the smoke will drift from suburban and village gardens; at least, from the gardens of those stout-hearted traditionalists who refuse to give up a real date for the bland convenience of the nearest weekend. There will be fretful bonfires, lit by chaps who never normally handle wood from one year's end to the next. There will be fewer Guys than there used to be, owing to the anxious squeamishness of our times and a sneaking sense that given the state of Parliament, the man with the flogging fuse more or less said it for all of us.

There will be potatoes in jackets, rockets on sticks, gold volcanoes and Catherine wheels which promptly fall off the fence and writhe furiously among the moribund stalks of summer. Dogs and cats will peer balefully out from windows; young children will run around in woolly hats, older ones recite the Firework Code censoriously to parents whom they consider irresponsible, if not actually drunk.

As families and friends join forces, each cook bearing the ritual salad in a tinfoil dish, there will be oohs and aahs, some of them satirical, at the ineptly fizzing display; the leading father, reading-glasses balanced on his nose and torch between his teeth, will painstakingly read out the hallowed words "Light blue touchpaper and retire". Whereon someone from his office will shout "About time too!" with a proper sense of ritual, as befits the oldest joke of autumn.

All very peaceful and traditional. An Englishman's home would not be his castle unless, every Fifth of November, he could enact this curious half-hearted rite of Poot-erish mayhem in his own back garden. Which is why Edwin Currie, MP, was way off beam when she said on the morning after the death of the head teacher David Hattersley that "private fireworks parties really ought no longer to be possible". She advocated public displays, "properly run by people who are qualified and licensed to do them. I know," she added kindly, "that is a very authoritarian way of doing things, but I am horrified that a man like David Hattersley should have lost his life."

So are we all, Mrs Currie; our horror was compounded later that very day when Steve Timcke was killed in front of his children by another large firework, and a third

man was knocked unconscious by an exploding rocket. There is a particular and unique horror in accidents which result from attempts to have fun (I myself used to have nightmares in the days when my brother regularly parachuted in a gorilla-suit at fairs, waving a banana; if anything had gone wrong, the gorilla-suit would definitely have made it worse). And so much of this particular kind of horror has already marred the nostalgic foolishness of Guy Fawkes week 1996 that Mrs Currie will undoubtedly find supporters.

Indeed, there is a real risk of her finding so many that one of these years the boxes of fireworks will not appear in the shops at all and we shall be restricted to official displays. Assuming, of course, that there are enough "qualified and licensed" people to run them, all in the same week, all over the country. This may not be as simple a matter as Mrs Currie airily suggests: the trouble with big communal displays in the park is that you have to have big fireworks or nobody can see properly, and it is impossible for local individuals — as some in the trade itself, such as Mr Dealer of Pains, have pointed out — to find a training scheme suitable for the needs of a person who sets off five or six big fireworks once a year. Nor can trading standards officers check up properly on whom such big "public" fireworks are sold to, because there is no easily produced proof that the buyer knows his fuse from his elbow.

Unless it is so large that the organisers can afford several thousand pounds for professional pyrotechnicians, the communal event — the middle-sized neighbourhood display of the kind that half-baked safety campaigns have tended to approve of — is these days probably far more dangerous than a smaller private one in the back garden.

Poor Mr Hattersley was killed while actually conducting a community, school-based firework display, which is presumably why he was using an appropriately large and powerful firework — so that everyone would have a good view, which is why those enormous and dodgy Chinese imports are on easy general sale.

The paradox is that Mrs Currie could have made a better case by saying that apart from a few showpieces in large cities, only garden firework displays should be allowed, since their fun lies in more modest and less dangerous pyrotechnics of the kind which only hurt you when you fail to follow the simple Firework Code. Then we could sweep the public shelves clear of the big mortars and bombs and have done with it.

There would still be genuinely professional showpieces for those who want to travel to them; otherwise the back gardens would fizz and smoke and pop with cosy domestic fireworks fit for audiences of two dozen at most. But there would be no deceptively "safe" middle way: not the remotest risk of a responsible, careful but untrained pillar of the community ever handling an 8lb explosive in a mortar tube.

Sweeping the suspect big-bangers off the shelves is an obvious priority anyway. There has been a major failure of care for public safety in this odd, once-a-year industry. Whether it was predominantly because of EU trade rules, as some claim, or just out of a general sense of deregulation, the changes made in 1993 and 1994 to import licences and rules have led, in the opinion of every despairing expert, to the arrival in Britain of immense numbers of big quasi-professional fireworks from the Far East. Some have instructions only in Chinese; some not only breach Brit-

ish safety regulations but are so dangerous the Chinese themselves don't put them on general sale.

Moreover, as campaigners for firework safety — and the trade — have pointed out over the past few days, the regulations that do exist are so slack that there is not even a system in place under which the authorities that see consignments into the country at, say, Felixstowe, have to inform the health and safety authorities in the region — say, Yorkshire — where the firm they are destined for is based. So these things flow unimpeded, in the name of free trade and consumer choice, into a country which is so innocent, so impractical, so accustomed to being nannied by safety laws, that even intelligent buyers have not the faintest idea of what they are getting into.

Both of the fireworks which killed at the weekend were of a type that should be detonated electronically, from a distance, by people who have expertise in handling explosives. That they were in the hands of law-abiding laymen with a packet of safety matches is patently ridiculous. Yet the very reason for our innocence and vulnerability in this respect is that we used to have some of the toughest and most effective firework safety rules in the world; if the side-effect of an EU law turns out to be the mass import of lethal Chinese explosives, it is surely a stupid law and one which our Government should have resisted strenuously.

So regulate imports and sales of freakish, unbridled, oversized fireworks rather than clamping down, *à la Currie*, on innocent, convivial private behaviour. If we were not forever being urged by the well-meaning to abandon our back-garden revels because we are not fit to handle Golden Rain, and to traipse down the road to a community event which is of necessity bigger and showier, there would not be the absurd arms-race which has led to the popularity of dodgy Oriental whizz-bangs.

It is fitting to mourn the victims of bad luck and of an overenthusiastic free market; fitting also to goad the Department of Trade to get a move on with its lagged review of imports. Nonetheless, have a good festival of fire tonight. Enjoy, with a clear conscience and a long taper, the heady once-a-year status of hero daddy who makes the sky light up. Even if the children are too old and blasé to appreciate Golden Rain, the adults aren't.

Wealthy enough to gamble

Anatole Kaletsky says Major won't have Clinton's luck

The slogan that supposedly explained Bill Clinton's first presidential election victory passed into political mythology as soon as the votes were counted in November 1992: "It's the economy, stupid." Four years ago, Americans were feeling poor, insecure and fed up with their underperforming economy. So they booted out George Bush. Now America is enjoying a dream combination of full employment, low inflation and sound public finance. Against this background, Mr Clinton would be sure of victory even if his opponent were not Bob Dole but Abe Lincoln.

That, at least, is the conventional wisdom. And it offers some comfort to the Tories in Britain. Britain may not be doing quite as well as America, but it is enjoying a healthy combination of rising incomes, low inflation, falling unemployment and decent growth. If a healthy economy guarantees Mr Clinton a victory today, why not John Major next year?

Labour politicians have a pat answer: the premise is false. The British economy is not healthy at all. Voters know that even if incomes are rising, the Tories are giving away the seedcorn of investment on which future prosperity should be built. Without a long disquisition on BQ's economic prospects, let me record my view: Labour's analysis is bunkum; Britain's economy is healthier than it has been for many years (which does not make it immune from sabotage by blunders such as Kenneth Clarke's decision to raise interest rates).

How then do we explain the paradox? Both Bill Clinton and John Major were elected in 1992. Since then Mr Clinton has ridden America's economic revival to victory, but Mr Major has sunk to record depths of unpopularity, even while the economy has palpably improved. The likely explanation is not encouraging for British Tories. Voters are too sensible to assume that governments are responsible for everything happening in the economy. They judge politicians on the issues and principles that seem to move them — not just on raw economic numbers.

Mr Clinton worked hard from the start of his presidency to be identified with the economic issue that Americans considered most important — jobs. Although he did not directly control the Federal Reserve Board's monetary policy, he appointed articulate pro-growth Keynesian economists to important positions in the Fed, the Treasury and the White House. By doing this he was able to take credit for prosperity and growth.

Mr Major latched onto a very different economic issue, inflation, which now leaves British voters cold. As a result, very few voters connect rising prosperity with the Tories, especially since the turning of the economic tide immediately followed the apparent abandonment of Mr Major's anti-inflationary policies, when Britain left the exchange-rate mechanism.

But why was Mr Major unable to reinvent himself as an advocate of growth and jobs in the four years after White Wednesday? Part of the explanation undoubtedly lies in the dominance of monetarist dogma in Mr Major's thinking. But there may also be a deeper reason. Right-wing politicians are in their natural element during periods of hardship and financial crisis, while left-wing politicians find it easier to operate in prosperous times. When the economy is healthy, people are more inclined to share their prosperity with the less well-off and to take some risks by electing flamboyant politicians committed to social change. It is during crises that cautious heart-counters like Mr Major come into their own.

Every Labour government since Ramsay MacDonald's first administration in 1924 has been elected during a period of economic growth and declining unemployment. The same has been broadly true in America, where Democrats have usually been swept into office on a tide of optimism, while Republicans have often benefited from fear and gloom.

We now know that the American economy had already passed its turning point by the time Bill Clinton arrived at the White House in 1993. Indeed, revised economic figures have shown that America's economic performance in the last year of the Bush Administration was not at all bad — growth in the last quarter before the election was revised up from 2.7 to 3.9 per cent, and Republicans have cursed their luck for losing an election they ought to have won "on the economy".

Perhaps the opposite was true. Perhaps the American voters sensed the economic improvement and perhaps that was why they decided to risk a change from a dour Republican to a colourful Democrat. In their bones, Americans may already have started to feel more confident, better off and more willing to take political risks. Perhaps the same thing happened in Britain in the period after White Wednesday, when Britain's faster economic growth could actually help Labour more than the Government. Perhaps the Tories should try a new slogan: "It's not the economy, stupid."

Top brass

SHOULD you notice a military snap in the step of Malcolm Rifkind, dapper Foreign Secretary, silk and Territorial Army enthusiast, it may be down to the success of his diplomatic mission to the Middle East. More probably, however, it will be due to an honour conferred rarely on civilians by the military.

Rifkind has been appointed an honorary colonel of an army regiment, an accolade not accorded any Cabinet minister in recent memory. He takes over from Brigadier Brian Charles Ridley as Honorary Colonel 162 Movement Control Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers), based in Grantham.

In an internal memo, the ministry hastens to point out Rifkind's strong involvement in the Territorial Army during his period as Defence Secretary: "He increased their role in operational tasks; he maintained the size of the TA despite pressure to axe it; he produced the White Paper on the TA." He also has his own uniform, with shiny brass buttons and spit-and-polish boots; and he has never shirked ceremonial dinner duties. But whether the Foreign Secre-

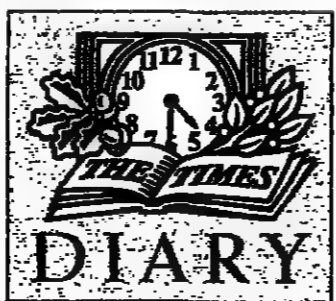
tary has mucked in, rolling around in the mud of Salisbury Plain with management consultants playing bang-bang at the weekends, remains uncertain. My guess is that he would find it all too grubby.

● Slices of smoked salmon lay untouched yesterday morning at the breakfast launch of *Encore*, a magazine in support of the fuller female form. But chocolate éclairs, Danish pastries and butter-laden croissants disappeared before you could say "Double-D cup" as guests, including Vanessa Feltz and TV's fat lady Jennifer Paterson, weighed in lustily.

Wires crossed

AS Remembrance Sunday approaches, yachts on the BT Global Challenge boat in Rio de Janeiro. *Pause to Remember* (decorated with poppies and supported by the Royal British Legion), have been doing their best to maintain a profile for the charity.

On arriving in Rio a far from distinguished twelfth, they hit the town and its convivial bars. Emotional from the voyage and tired



from a night's drinking, they then decided to take their boat out again — against the rules of the competition. Within a couple of flaps of the sail, they had inflicted some minor damage to their yacht and returned dejectedly to port. There they met the race director Chay Blyth, who gave them a lashing worse than any transatlantic squall.

Canned

ONE of Oxford's last all-male institutions has tumbled. The Canning Club, the oldest University essay society, is to admit women. A fogeyish conservative body, the Canning has met for 150 years to discuss an essay presented by one of its members fuelling up regularly with claret. Former members include Lord Curzon, Lord Hal-

sham of St Marylebone, William Waldegrave and a whole range of embryonic Tory grandees.

"Anybody who was anyone was a member of the Canning or its rival the Chatham in my day," said Hailsham. "I suppose admitting women is a perfectly natural progression."

Unsurprisingly, the moving force behind this revolution is none other than the American graduate student, Clifford Potter. Keen Diary readers will remember that earlier this year, Potter, the heir to a Midwestern dry goods fortune, tried to update Oxford's Bullingdon club, making it more like an American fraternity. The plan collapsed. As one of Potter's contemporaries puts it, "in the wake of Potter lies nothing but shards."

Ample time

HABIT-SWAPPING is the vogue at the moment at Ampleforth Abbey in Yorkshire, where the present Abbot, Patrick Barry, has announced he will be stepping down from his post in March. Now 78, Barry has been at Ampleforth man and boy. Since arriving at the school aged 11, he has only ever left for three years in Oxford.

He is currently halfway through his second term as Abbot, overseeing the monks in the community.



Major and Lancaster: soulmates

The favourite to succeed him is the present Headmaster of Ampleforth College, Father Dominic Warner.

Who he?

OBSCURE American cultural references have been popping up in the Prime Minister's remarks — most recently his comparison of Tony Blair to the fictional character Elmer Gantry, as reported in this newspaper yesterday. Gantry was an evangelist preacher prone to fiery sermonising, but later ex-



posed as a fraud and hustler. The Prime Minister's reference to Elmer Gantry can be explained by his obsession with Burt Lancaster. On screen, Gantry was played by Lancaster, one of his screen idols. As an unemployed boy in Brixton, Major would idle away the afternoons in the cinema, repeatedly watching *The Flame and the Arrow*, in which Lancaster played an athletic rebel leader in medieval Italy.

P.H.S



OXFORD'S BUSINESS

The core task is to preserve excellence, not grass.

The dons' parliament, or Congregation, of Oxford University votes today on a proposal to build the headquarters of its Business School on a playing field close to the heart of the university. Although Oxford has the opportunity of housing one of the world's leading business schools in the next century, the development is only possible because of a £20m donation from the Syrian-born businessman Wafic Said. A vocal coalition of dons and students argue that Mr Said's money is contaminated by his involvement in arms deals, that business studies are superficial and unscholarly and that the university will break an undertaking to keep the site free of buildings. None of these arguments survives examination.

Universities should not take money generated by evidently immoral or unethical activities. But no such charge has been levelled, let alone proved, against Mr Said. Oxford should not refuse his donation on the grounds that a minority of its staff and students dislike the arms industry. Mr Said's implacable critics might recall that the university's past benefactors have not always been saints. In his day, the controversial Cardinal Wolsey cannot have seemed the donor made in heaven; yet his college remains one of Oxford's best-endowed. Does anybody now worry how Cecil Rhodes made the £3.3 million which he gave the university in 1903, financing the Rhodes scholarships?

The outbreak of academic snobbery directed at business education is the most foolish and disgraceful aspect of the university's debate. The worst management education may be superficial statements of the blindly obvious expressed in psycho-babble. For the hard-working holder of an under-funded professorship in economics, it must indeed be infuriating to see management gurus making huge sums of money writing books with titles such as

Bursting Into Flame: Drive Your Company As If It Were a Huge Dirigible. But if the entry barriers to the profession of management teaching are ridiculously low, the Oxford Business School's job is to raise them by example. The best business school should be a meeting point for economics, law, politics and ethics; Oxford's graduates will disperse to every area of public and private life.

To dismiss management education as "vocational education" is an ahistorical misunderstanding. When William of Wykeham founded New College in the 14th century, he created an institution to teach the key vocational management skill of the day: Latin. The director-designate of Oxford's 20th-century business school, John Kay, is not a man known for tolerating technical gimmicks from the intellectual fringe.

The university authorities have been struggling to teach management studies since the 1960s. Congregation voted to establish a fully integrated Business School in 1990. The university rightly believes that the Business School can only make its full contribution from the university's heart, and that has meant a hard decision to sacrifice a playing field. No such price is ideal if a better alternative exists: but in this case none does. No categorical promise that the space would remain a green field seems to have been made. Oxford's purpose is to teach, not to preserve grass.

Mr Said's gift is an opportunity for Oxford to recover the mistake it made in refusing to house one of Britain's first two business schools in the 1960s. A decision against the Business School would probably mean the collapse of current plans and would drive future donors to other universities, and probably to other countries. The ancient fathers of Oxford would have voted to accept this donation — and so will those who care for the university's future.

THE ORDER OF THE BOOT

Bulgarians and Romanians tire of ex-Communist decay

As they stockpile cabbage heads and firewood against another winter of food shortages, power cuts, shrivelled family budgets and chaotic state finances, most voters in Bulgaria and Romania expect things to get worse before they can conceivably get better. In that depressing sense, the weekend's election results in both countries have changed nothing.

But in another, they are momentous. Unlike their Central European neighbours, Bulgaria and Romania never quite broke with Communism. The Stalinist dictators Todor Zhivkov and Nicolae Ceausescu were overthrown seven years ago. But except for a short period in Bulgaria, they have been succeeded by governments that were communist in all but name.

This new-old breed of politicians rebuilt the webs of patronage while playing on the fears of those lower down the ladder — the party hacks' fear of retribution, or the workers' that his job will disappear along with the decaying and uneconomic state factories. It has taken until now for people to vote massively for change, deciding that whatever pain and uncertainty life under a genuinely free-market system might entail, nothing could be worse than socialist inefficiency and corruption coupled to half-hearted economic reforms.

In Bulgaria's presidential elections Petar Stoyanov, a straight-talking young lawyer whose head barely showed above the political parapet a year ago, has trounced Ivan Marazov, the scholarly ex-Communist put forward by the governing Socialist Party in a vain effort to convince voters that it was in a vain effort to convince voters that it was capable of reform. Constitutionally, he has no more powers than had Zhelev, the last, absolutely democratic outgoing President

who has fought a courageous rearguard action against the totalitarian tendencies of Zhan Videnov's Government. But politically, it is a new game.

Mr Stoyanov cannot compel a general election, and none is due for two years. But so angry is the national mood, and so desperate the state of the economy, that the Government has been forced to admit that it has forfeited its political mandate. To survive this winter without massive unrest, it will have to borrow the President's democratic free-market clothes. When Mr Stoyanov prods the Government, it will have to jump — and even that may not save it for long.

President Ion Iliescu of Romania, Communism's great survivor who confidently expected his writ to run well into the next century, has had an even greater shock. A year ago the Opposition's 15-party Democratic Convention led by Emil Constantinescu looked hopelessly divided. Today, it is celebrating victory in both houses of parliament over the neo-Communists who have governed without a break since 1989. It did so by challenging Mr Iliescu's paternalistic "stability and continuity" platform with the kind of radical free-market "contract with Romania" that few observers thought the country's voters would be bold enough to buy. Mr Constantinescu enters the run-off campaign for the presidency with the wind in his sails and, although Mr Iliescu's chances cannot be written off, his days of uncontested power are over.

Bulgaria and Romania have been stranded in history's chilliest anteroom, that reserved for ex-Soviet satellites whose rulers refuse to learn from the West. Their people have not escaped it yet, but they have kicked open the emergency exit.

VILE BADINAGE

Who would call his opponent Elmer Gantry, even in jest?

Tony Blair's claim upon the mantle of moral superiority clearly irritates John Major like nothing else. During the party conference season it seemed briefly that Mr Blair might have overreached himself at last in millennial rhetoric. But no: since then he has coined the tragedy at Dunblane, embraced the manifesto of Frances Lawrence and successfully paraded his personal ethics and Christian beliefs. For a Prime Minister of famous decency and integrity, leading a party that has long liked to defend morality from godless socialists, it must be the ultimate aggravation.

Yet to compare Mr Blair to one of literature's best-known religious comen, as political correspondents reported Mr Major as doing at the weekend, is surely a gibe too far. Maybe the Prime Minister's remark is likening Mr Blair to Elmer Gantry was in jest. Maybe, like all off-the-record remarks made in the House of Commons tea-room, it was never made. Maybe Mr Major was not recalling Gantry's bogus rhetoric, religious hypocrisy, fraud and philandering — all so devastatingly described in Sinclair Lewis's 1927 novel — but rather his senatorial bearing, musical voice and prowess on the football field, all qualities which a friend might well attribute to the Opposition leader. Sadly, however, we must assume that Mr Major was being unfriendly.

Elmer Gantry is one of the most monstrous of fictional phonies: even in his youth "he could make Good Morning seem as profound as Kant, welcoming as a brass

band and uplifting as a cathedral organ". By the end of the book, which helped Lewis to the first Nobel Literature Prize for an American in 1930, the fake preacher is still not unfrocked, is still pleading successfully for support from his congregation and is still eyeing up the ankles of the new girl in the choir. His last words are "Dear Lord, thy work is but begun! We shall yet make these United States a moral nation!"

Where might Britain's new moral drama lead us next? Who, for instance, will play the role of Rev Chadband, Charles Dickens's precursor to Elmer Gantry, who gave poor Jo so bad a time in *Bleak House*? Chadband is younger and more attractive, but has all the same oleaginous qualities of the preaching politician. Gummer, perhaps?

While Gantry utterly dominates the book that bears his name, he has a half-rival in the ghoulish female evangelist, Sharon Falconer, who is loosely based on the real American, preaching phenomenon, Aimee Semple McPherson. Evelyn Waugh chose the same thrice-married Mrs McPherson for the immortal character of Mrs Melrose Ape in *Vile Bodies*. Is Gillian Shepherd ready for that role? Would Jack Straw dress in drag?

Some readers may, of course, remember the politician who was sharing the voyage across the ocean with Mrs Ape and her bad-tempered "angels". He was a powerful man "in an uneasy trance", a man of notable diffidence and liability to panic. His name was the Rt Hon Walter Outrage MP, and he was "last week's Prime Minister".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Prospect of international military intervention in Zaire

From Mr John Snodgrass

Sir, The horrific "ethnic" killings in the former Yugoslavia were only stemmed when UN action became armed, and later when Nato forces were freed from a purely reactive role.

Those responsible for genocide in Rwanda (leading article, November 2) could have been halted two years ago, at comparatively little cost, by a small, disciplined armed force, as could be the "armies" now fighting in eastern Zaire.

Everyone familiar with the area knows this, and knows that the appalling human tragedies will go on at least until the Hutu terrorist leaders in the camps are brought to heel. For it is they, far more than the Tutsi-led Government in Rwanda, who are preventing the refugees from returning.

The unfortunate aid workers cannot control these leaders, and, for a variety of reasons, the Zairean Army is not doing so either. An international conference, as proposed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council (letter, October 30), would be able to achieve little of permanent value unless it were prepared to grasp the nettle of military intervention.

Of course, such intervention, even with African participation, would risk being denounced as interference in internal affairs, if not neo-colonialism.

and no Western country would happily accept the odium of pressing it. Without it, refugees will continue to be hounded; massacres will flare up with sickening frequency; aid workers will keep their wards alive only until the next crisis; and the camps will nurture discontent, at enormous cost, for decades.

As so often in foreign policy, we have a choice of evils. But in this case, there can be little doubt which is the greater.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SNODGRASS
(Ambassador to Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi, 1980-83).
The Barn House,
North Warnborough, Hampshire.
November 2.

and thereby gaining the support of their people.

The emergence of the Museveni Government in Uganda from the wreckage left by Amin and his successors provides an excellent example of this process. The road to such an outcome may, as in Uganda, be long and often tragic. But it can only be lengthened by the incursion of foreign troops whose very presence — regardless of their motives, which may be admirable — only obstructs the development of accountable local regimes.

Even humanitarian aid may well be seized on, as has happened in eastern Zaire, by those who were principally responsible for the disaster in the first place, to strengthen their own control over local populations and perpetuate the suffering that they have caused.

There is a sense in the West that we have both the responsibility and the power to rectify the evident wrongs of the world which is understandable but misconceived, and in our attempts to do right we can easily find ourselves compounding the very problems that we are trying to solve. This is just such a case.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER CLAPHAM,
Lancaster University,
Politics and International Relations,
Carlisle College, Lancaster LA1 4YL,
November 4.

Rain, rain ... what did they say?

From Mr B. H. Parker

Sir, Mr John Ainley (letter, November 2) makes a valid and telling point when he complains of the difficulty of remembering the important elements of a radio weather forecast.

Some three or four years ago I met with the same problem professionally when I was a lecturer in meteorology at the Britannia Royal Naval College. I had to advise officers on the relative merits of different sources of meteorological information and I was concerned that the then newer styles of weather forecasting, so effective on television and in newspapers, would not transfer well to the telephone and radio because too much information was being presented.

To test this I recorded the then Times Weatherall weather report and forecast for Devon and Cornwall and played it back to a class of graduate officers who had completed their meteorological course and understood the terminology used. They were asked to listen to the message and then recall the essential details. The level of recall was about 5 per cent.

So, Mr Ainley, you are neither alone nor at fault.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN PARKER,
Rook House, Victoria Road,
Dartmouth, Devon,
November 2.

Healey on Brown

From Mr Alan Lee Williams

Sir, Lord Healey weighs in with the gratuitous comment that Mr Gordon Brown lacks governmental experience (report, November 1).

I seem to recall that Denis Healey had no governmental experience when he became, arguably, the best Secretary of State for Defence since the Second World War. His brilliant and unbroken period at the Ministry of Defence lasted some six years, thus giving him the governmental experience he originally lacked. Mr Brown can hope for no less, perhaps.

Also, Mr Healey went straight from Oxford to the Army and then to Transport House as an official of the Labour Party before entering Parliament. This can hardly be regarded as governmental experience; nor was it, indeed, so very different from an entire political generation who subsequently enjoyed the experience of Cabinet Office.

Lord Healey forgets the past and has acquired a very selective memory.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN LEE WILLIAMS
(Parliamentary Private Secretary to Denis Healey, 1968-70).
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1,
November 1.

The lessons of corporal punishment

From Lord Digby

Sir, When describing the effects of democracy in Athens, Plato wrote that with the introduction of Democratic freedom, so this freedom was extended to the home, where the father, not wishing to seem disgraceful, failed to discipline his son. As a result the son asserts his independence by not showing respect for his parents. The teacher in turn fears and panders to his pupils, who consequently despise their teachers.

Why has it taken 2,400 years for this analysis to be proved so strikingly correct? I suggest that it is because our increasingly liberal civilisation has made us realise the futility of capital and corporal punishment, but has not provided any substitute. By being too civilised we are in fact undermining the very roots of our civilisation. Civilised behaviour is not a characteristic with which we are born, but it has to be instilled into us.

In previous ages the maxim of "Spare the rod and spoil the child" was generally accepted, but undoubtedly this discipline was overdone. Now it is up to us to find a civilised alternative. This is fairly easy at an early age, but it gets progressively more difficult.

From birth, discipline can be instilled by feeding at regular hours, and, as William Kees-Mogg quoted John Locke (article, October 28) "little children should not be allowed to get their own way by crying, querulousness, bullying or repeated demands". A loving slap can work with slightly older children, but when they become teenagers it is too late, as any deterrent can become increasingly violent.

The prime responsibility for instilling civilised behaviour undoubtedly lies with parents, but those who condemn the slap or cane must suggest an effective alternative.

Yours faithfully,
DIGBY,
Mintern, Dorchester, Dorset,
October 29.

Yours faithfully,
DIGBY,
Mintern, Dorchester, Dorset,
October 29.

From Mr R. J. Mehta

Sir, In my case, being at the receiving end of a caning experience at the hands of my teacher, a Jesuit priest in a school in Rangoon 56 years ago, was very beneficial indeed — it made me decide instantly that children should never be made the victims of adult violence in whatever form it may be inflicted.

I shall forever remain grateful to that teacher for this decision. As a result of it I have two lovely and affectionate grown-up daughters.

Sincerely yours,
RAJNIKANT J. MEHTA,
18 Leigh Court, Byron Hill Road,
Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex.

From Mr Michael O'Connor

Sir, Even the possibility that a "one-time-a-lifetime" caning at school may have set a boy on a course that led him to become Prime Minister (report, October 31) is the greatest advertisement for the efficacy of corporal punishment recently printed.

That the same Prime Minister intends to deny such efficacious discipline to other children suggests that, like his brother, he could have done with a second one.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL O'CONNOR,
23 Holmfield Road, Leicester,
November 2.

Streets of Tbilisi

From Mr Simon Stone

Sir, Despite your reporter's comments (later editions, November 2), any English football players or supporters walking Tbilisi's streets at night will enjoy a city in parts as beautiful and charming as any in the world. Certainly Georgians face difficult economic times and are hard put to find the money to maintain the football stadium or care for stray dogs to the standards we aspire to, but anyone who lets this deter them from meeting Georgians will miss the unreserved and friendly generosity of the most hospitable people I have had the good fortune to meet.

If on venturing forth the streets are found to be dimly lit, a torch will suffice to reveal any unevenness in the pavement, but also an absence of people sleeping in doorways.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON STONE,
6 The Terrace,
Milton-under-Wychwood,
Oxfordshire.

Merry Epiphany?

From the Venerable B. H. Lucas

Sir, In your photograph of the Christmas stamps (October 28) I see that the three Wise Men appear on the 2nd-class stamp. Are we to assume that this is because mail bearing this stamp will not arrive until after Christmas — say January 6?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN LUCAS,
The Savage Club,
1 Whitehall Place, SW1.

State of bliss

From Mr John D. Chadwick

Sir, You highlight proposals from Labour and the Liberal Democrats for a Freedom of Information Act (report, October 30). This is quite unnecessary. There is already far too much information, often misunderstood, sometimes with harmful consequences.

What is required is a Freedom from Information Act. The Government should give a lead. The Minister of the Civil Service should award a Charter Mark to the department that produces the least volume of information, all of which is clear, concise, and above all, absolutely essential.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN D. CHADWICK,
Les Vauxhills,
23 Barnfield Avenue,
Wern, Shropshire,
November 1.

Howard and the police

From the Chairman of the Joint Executive Committee, Metropolitan Police Federation

Sir, The confrontation at our recent annual open meeting ("Police jeer minister as he defends Howard's law and order record", report, October 31) was occasioned not by the Home Secretary's policies but by the fact that, as the police authority for the Metropolitan Police, he has attended none of our annual open meetings. He has created his own small piece of history by being the only Home Secretary in modern times not to do so.

We have never had any explanation

for his non-attendance and David Maclean, Home Office Minister of State, knew exactly why he was jeered: it was because he attacked the audience from the outset and accused us of failing to support Howard's policies. Mr Maclean was aware of our concerns and our feeling of being snubbed yet again. If you orchestrate hostility by an audience you should not be surprised if you are jeered.

Yours sincerely,
MIKE BENNETT, Chairman,
Joint Executive Committee,
Metropolitan Police Federation,
Croydon Police Station,
71 Park Lane, Croydon, Surrey,
November 1.

New prisons

From Mrs Ann Gray

Sir, "Mr Howard said that career criminals calculated the risks they ran carefully and would be deterred by the threat of longer sentences" (report, later editions, October 26).

Why is he planning to build more prisons? Should he not be expecting to close some under his new sentencing policy?

Yours sincerely,
ANN GRAY,
18 St Nicholas Gate, Hedon, Hull.

Kwai bridge tourism

From Mr Jonathan Bullock

Sir, The bridge over the River Kwai (or Kwae to be precise) may well have become a tourist attraction (report, October 31) but let us not exaggerate this.

I visited the bridge during the summer and found it a focal point to understanding what a previous generation had to endure.

The railway journey over the bridge and through the "Death Valley" was a poignant reminder of the sheer scale of what the Allied prisoners were forced to achieve. Most organised tours also take in the war cemetery and reconstructed POW huts at Kanchanaburi.

Indeed, those poor locals making a very small amount of money from visitors are themselves the descendants of people who died in their thousands helping construct the railway. They are not intrusive and there is plenty of time and space for quiet prayer, reflection and keeping the memory of our brave soldiers alive.

The plan for a proper memorial at the bridge should be given serious consideration by the Burma Star Association.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN BULLOCK,
57 Westminster Mansions,
Little Smith Street, SW1,
November 2.

Fine defaulters

From Miss Juliet Hartridge

Sir, Charles Scott (letter, October 30) suggests that the Government allows single mothers in receipt of income support who fail to pay their television licences and who consequently face prosecution, to have free television licences.

It is not necessary to implement costly amendments to the income support regulations. This "humiliating and unnecessary fiasco" in the magistrates' courts could be avoided if impecunious single mothers dispensed with their televisions.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. HARTIDGE,
37 Leadwate Road, SW11,
October 30.

Getty complaint

From Mr Claus von Bulow

Sir, Mr Walsh, the Director of the Getty Museum in Malibu, is reported (Arts, October 29) to complain about the British Government's "bent" rules for the export of works of art. He does not mention, but no doubt knows, that the governments of continental Europe, such as the Greeks, the Italians and the French, simply prohibit the export of works of art of the quality of Canova's *Graces* or the *Guernico* by fiat.

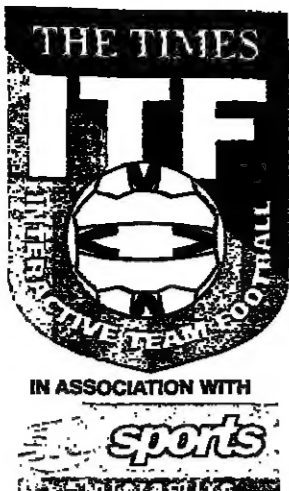
As Mr Walsh's files must show, works of lesser importance can from time to time be exported from continental Europe by an offer to buy and donate another work of art, which is desired by the relevant ministry. This is not illegal or corrupt, but somehow the British Government may not find that kind of bazaar bargaining very dignified.

Mr Walsh should be content to profit, as the late Mr Getty did, from the degree of flexibility in the UK before the European Court imposes a rigid prohibition on the export of all works of art of the quality desired by the Getty to date. Some people find that works of art may be safer in "some country house in Norfolk" (which Mr Walsh uses as an example of the Gobi desert) rather than in a Los Angeles suburb, surrounded by forest fires and located on top of the San Andreas fault.

Yours sincerely,
CLAUS BULOW
(Personal assistant to the late J. Paul Getty, 1959-68),
109 Onslow Square, SW7.

Letters for publications may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

The absent goalkeeper who actually makes a save



THREE constituent parts of the United Kingdom can boast winners in *The Times* Interactive Team Football competition this week. From England, Mr John Hunt continues to lead the overall race for £50,000. From Scotland, Mr S. G. Pitt is the October manager of the month. And from Wales, Mr A. Green is the manager of the week.

Mr Pitt, from Arbroath, gained 84 points during October, with the England players David Seaman and Paul Gascoigne his principal points-scorers. Mr Green, from Carmarthen, gained 36 points last week, with consistent scoring throughout his team — rare during a week that saw low scoring all round in ITF.

Both have picked goalkeepers who are first-choice for their clubs — Southall (Everton) and Seaman (Arsenal) respectively — which is less common among the leading ITF selectors. Mr Hunt, for example, has Michael Oakes, the Aston Villa reserve goalkeeper, in his ITF team.

It would still appear that the leading selectors are picking inactive goalkeepers. It may be against the spirit of the game, but it is effective — just ask anyone who has had Peter Schmeichel in their team for the last couple of weeks.

If your team is under-performing, you can use the ITF transfer system which



Mark Wright, left, sees his ITF points rating plummet as Chris Sutton scores from the penalty spot on Sunday



allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 688.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01532 488 122.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Beifa Scottish League premier division and Tannerts Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED		
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Scores goal
Saves penalty	1pt	All players
Full back/Central defender	3pts	Appearance
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Scores hat-trick
Midfield player	1pt	Manager
Keeps clean sheet*	2pts	Team wins
Scores goal	3pts	Team draws

POINTS DEDUCTED		
Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked
Concedes goal	1pt	Concedes penalty
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misses penalty
Concedes goal	3pts	Scores own goal
All players	3pts	Manager
Sent off	1pt	Team loses

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
* must have played for 45 minutes in the match



ENTER TIMES ITF BY TELEPHONE — THERE ARE BIG PRIZES TO BE WON EVERY WEEK AND EVERY MONTH

The Manager of the Week and the Manager of the Month are up for grabs from now until the end of the season. You could be a winner of either by entering a team today. The Manager of the Week or Month can be won by any team no matter where it is in the league, the prize for the Manager of the Week or Month simply goes to the person whose team scores the highest points in any one week or month.

The prize for the Manager of the Week is £250 cash, plus a £250 Sports Gift Voucher for an amateur football team in your community — as nominated by you. The Manager of the Month will receive £1,000 cash.

Enter today by following the instructions below.

Enter ITF by phone on 0891 405 011

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom, call 44 990 100 320

1. You must use a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone).
2. Choose 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
3. Do not spend more than £35-million.
4. Do not choose more than two individuals (2 players or 1 player and 1 manager) from any one football club.
5. Once you have chosen your team, call the entry line, above, and follow these step-by-step instructions.
 - a) You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager.
 - b) You must speak the name of your team (no more than 16 characters) your name, address, with postcode, and daytime telephone number.
 - c) Finally, you will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number and your chosen team as no postal notification will be sent.

NB. Any new team will only score points on future games.

0891 calls cost 45p per minute cheap rate and 50p per minute at all other times. Your call will cost approximately double if made from a pay phone. In the event of there being more than one Manager of the Week or Month, the winner will be chosen at random. All ITF rules apply, a copy of which will be made available on request.



See Sky Text, page 118

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

IN		OUT	
12903	Chris Woods	Southampton	£1.50m
22806	Steve Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	£1.00m
21105	Michael Birchall	Everton	£1.50m
MOVED		OUT	
51901	Nick Bamby	Everton	£4.00m
	(from Middlesbrough)		
LOANED PLAYERS		OUT	
11102	Jason Keaton	Everton	£0.50m
22106	Chris Hildred	Newcastle United	£0.50m
40005	Franc Carr	Aston Villa	£0.50m
50002	Steve Milosavljevic	Aston Villa	£0.50m

D. Wainwright (Derby to Manchester City, one week), B. Angell (Sunderland to Stockport, two weeks), T. Wright (Middlesbrough to Reading, three weeks); R. van der Laan (Derby to Walsley, one week), S. Fitzgerald (Wolverhampton to Millwall, one week), M. Williams (Sheff Wed to Huddersfield, one week), F. Bennett (Southampton to Shrewsbury, three weeks), G. Blackmore (Middlesbrough to Bristol City, three weeks), S. Davies (Manchester United to Huddersfield, three weeks), M. Jackson (Everton to Birmingham, three weeks), J. Kavanagh (Derby to Wycombe, three weeks). Loan periods subject to fluctuation.

THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	246
2	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	237
3	Gangsters	(A Lone)	237
4	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	236
5	Skyforest	(A Burton)	236
6	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	232
7	Scholes For Goals	(K Booth)	230
8	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	227
9	Orvieto Classico	(J Bradshaw)	227
10	NST Monkstone	(J Staszewicz)	226
11	Purple Rain	(B Gohil)	225
12	Rigby's Rovers	(A Rigg)	225
13	Dour Rangers 3	(I Clayton)	218
14	Missa Machine	(P Ford)	218
15	Noah's Ark	(G P Doherty)	217
16	I	(M Corless)	216
17	James Boys Three	(M Jones)	216
18	Daggers	(V Cox)	213
19	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	213
20	James Boys 8	(M Jones)	213
21	PJ Thistle	(R Newbould)	212
22	Lesley's Legmen	(L Michaels)	212
23	Hull Red Devils	(G Foster)	212
24	Brain's Team	(B Howes)	212
25	Beyond Fault	(P Foster)	211
26	A2	(K Farrel)	210
27	Tullip's Taps	(D Tulip)	210
28	Bulbuth Ltd 3	(M Lacombe)	210
29	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	210
30	Flying Foreigners	(D Thomas)	210
31	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	209
32	Clover Vale	(N Ensingh)	209
33	Red's Rovers	(B Roddman)	209
34	Beaston Celtic	(B McGivern)	208
35	AB 4	(A Boyland)	208
36	Aldecarole Villa	(M Jukes)	208
37	Pleasant Fitters 10	(T Feehily)	208
38	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	208
39	Sky Times III	(L McCullough)	208
40	The Dansters	(C Corless)	207
41	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swales)	207
42	The Red Devils	(K Booth)	207
43	Nomads	(N Brown)	206
44	Toto Calcio	(J Brown)	206
45	ST Uls	(M O'Brien)	205
46	Leyton's Lions 7	(R Layton)	205
47	Redknapp's Rovers	(B Ersson)	205
48	Expensive Failures	(S Harper)	204
49	Bob's Boys 2	(R Calder)	204
50	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	204
51	Def Con 3	(M Peck)	204
52	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	204
53	Jan 2	(J Clayton)	204
54	Pamela Anderson	(P Harndy)	204
55	Alice	(I Pigeon)	204
56	Insomniacs	(L A Tomlinson)	204
57	Mark's Magicians II	(M Kingston)	204
58	Bulbuth Ltd 5	(M Lacombe)	204
59	Howe Rovers 3	(N Goddard)	203
60	Fortune Sandwich	(A J Pinski)	203
61	PT's Top Team	(T Tidmarsh)	203
62	JS August Monthly 2	(J Swales)	203
63	Jane's Giants	(J Langton)	203
64	Nobby 20	(J Brown)	202
65	Inter The Stand	(M Ward)	202
66	D & A Warriors	(A Summers)	202
67	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	202
68	1st Elf	(K J Burns)	201

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Call the ITF hotline on 0891 866 963

Outside UK: 44 990 100 343

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
107	Sedra Super Stars	(J Seaman)	198
108	The Luke Hansard XI	(M Kelley)	198
109	Tasha	(I Pigeon)	198
110	Kanfer's Cronies	(E Kanfer)	198
111	Fendon United	(C Cowan)	198
112	—	(no name)	198
113	Jason's Boys Four	(J Seaman)	198
114	Brainbuds United	(J Seaman)	198
115	Thom Footley FC	(M Horan)	198
116	Animals	(L Clerk)	198
117	Nobby	(J Brown)	198
118	Northwood XI	(S Mullany)	198
119	Zoo Power	(D Hamilton)	198
120	The Grey Wizard	(M Andrew)	198
121	Cholin Chix 89	(C Scarlet)	198
122	FC Panto	(J Mullock)	198
123	Ziggy's Boys	(Z Ahmed)	198
124	Lynne's Lions	(L Horne)	198
125	Runch Girls	(M Burch)	198
126	Almali	(I Pigeon)	198
127	Buglugs	(S Birchfield)	198
128	Inter The Waller	(M Ward)	198
129	Dave's First XI	(Q O'Emmone)	198
130	Porcelain Gods	(P Ryan)	198
131	The Big Man	(K Booth)	198
132	Triple Top Tan	(J Bailey)	198
133	T 35	(T Bassant)	198
134	Boon's Boys XI	(P Bown)	198
135	Crookly Boys	(R Crook)	198
136	AC Fantasy FC	(M Skippin)	198
137	Hopeful Hottshots	(H Rimmer)	198
138	Joe's Skates	(D S Mills)	198
139	FC Big Hands	(A Martin)	198
140	Raj Is Back To Kill	(J Gohil)	198
141	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	198
142	Arrogant FC	(F K Taylor)	198
143	Oytrage 1	(G O'Emmone)	198
144	Edmo Utd	(D Edmondson)	198
145	Red Star Belgravia	(R Yemman)	198
146	Wet's Woodies	(J Brown)	198
147	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	198
148	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	198
149	Turner's Tigers	(C Turner)	198
150	Ace's High	(N Avery)	198
151	Herringberg Kick 1	(I Mura)	198
152	Chin Castle	(B Gohil)	198
153	Zeppia	(A Luckhurst)	198
154	Caroline B	(R Gohil)	198
155	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	198
156	Red's Rovers	(N Razia)	198
157	Lucy's Lions	(S Doggett)	198
158	Real Ale Madrid 2	(M Smith)	198
159	Le Bouff And 2 Veg	(M Sawley)	198
160	James Boys Sky	(M Jones)	198
161	ABC	(J Mobery)	198
162	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	198
163	WTF 2	(T Wabley)	198
164	West Wanderers	(S West)	198
165	Howe Rovers 1	(N Goddard)	198
166	Jack Son Of Ripper	(R Eddan)	198
167	Claremont Loyal	(B Fox)	198
168	Camorra's Hottshots	(D Cannon)	198
169	Shrew Mole	(J Brasher)	198
170	Garfield FC	(C J Eldred)	198
171	White Feathers	(M Catchpole)	198
172	Soccer Superstars	(J McCallion)	198
173	Anonak Addick	(S Miller)	198
174	Champions	(L Gibbons)	198
175	Johnny's Giants	(J Jones)	198

Pos	Team	(Player's name)
198	CUK	(G Weiss)
199	Foreign Flyers	(A David)
193	Xpat Minnies	(M Jackson)
183	Ice 3	(T Alder)
183	Turner's Earners 5	(P Turner)
183	Tur	(P Turner)
183	Legs Eleven	(P Broomhead)
183	Webster's Wanderers	(D Wetherall)
183	G Money FC	(S Semuels)
183	The Space Cowboys	(T Butler)
183	Alancia FC	(A Stilian)
183	Over The Moon FC	(I Roscall)
183	Chris' Critics Gang	(C Godden)
183	Eltham's Pompey Army	(M Ship)
183	Team A	(A Lone)
183	Trouble Shooters	(R Pmt)
183	Des Boot	(D A Sutton)
183	Deaf Men Can Manage	(R E H Turriciff)
183	Motley Town	(K McGuire)
183	Art's Allstars	(A Bang)
183	Utd Forever Etc	(E Kharodis)
183	Lessons One	(M Price)
183	Sporty Big Bone	(J Staszewicz)
183	Sporting Omnia	(A Swift)
183	Jamie's Giants	(J Allen)
207	Turner's Earners 1	(P Turner)
207	SJS	(J W Goody)
207	Garforth Seashawks	(J Doughty)
207	PJB Rovers	(P J Butler)
207	Mantic Attack	(G Binkley)
207	Euro Paulo 1	(P O'Connell)
207	Sheep Class	(D Green)
207	The Chirples	(C Potter)
207	Foreign Legion	(K Rowling)
207	Cool Side Burns	(M Roper)
207	Jar's B Team	(I W Davidson)
207	Royal Revolution	(M R Tibbels)
207	Dan's Devils	(D Curtis)
207	Sarsaparilla	(G Bown)
207	Blackhead United	(M Fox)
207	Smelly Waffles XI	(A Shabir)
207	Joe's Dogs Of War	(J K Walsh)
207	Mama's 1st XI	(J O'Connell)
207	U Vont Us	(T Staszewicz)
207	Unit Boys Utd 1	(S Gardner)
207	Always Portugal 1	(V Gilmaraen)
229	Class 1	(R J Westcott)
229	Cave From Down Under	(K James)
229	Sky Rockets	(K Farhat)
229	Cyprus	(J Angeli)
229	Tracey's XI	(G Fisher)
229	Eller's Falles	(M Pocastera)
229	Mymachoy Rovers	(S Grant)
229	Inta Goal	(G Lippert)
229	Murrey's Mates	(N Anderson)
229	HDB Is Out Of Order	(N Cassidy)
229	RKV 2	(C Vancosa)
229	Back In Bristol	(D Stone)
229	Hector's House	(B Simmonds)
229	Misaphuslecu	(M Cutley)
229	Chemploze Elect	(L Spence)
229	Blue Brazil	(D Nicholas)
229	Sensitib	(K Mason)
229	Chase And Blue FC	(C Smith)
229	The Reigate	(M J Halligan)
229	Everedge On Jucks F	(N Hio)
249	Three Teltoppers	(M A Kennedy)
249	Morgi Tom	(B Moggenda)
249	Jeabod FC	(J A Henning)

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0 -3
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	5.100	-1 +6
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0 0
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0 -3
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0 -8
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	0.75	0 -8
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	3.50	0 +1
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+5 +13
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0 -0
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0 -1
10601	D Harrison	Chelsea	2.50	0 +10
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	-1 -20
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0 -6
10702	J Filan	Coventry City	0.50	0 0
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0 0
10802	R Hought	Derby County	1.00	0 0
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0 +4
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	-1 -1
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	0 -18
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	+5 +4
11102	J Kearson	Everton	0.50	0 0
11103	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0 -18
11201	G Rousselet	Hibernian	2.50	0 0
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	2.00	+5 -10
11401	D Lakovic	Kilmarnock	1.50	-4 -8
11501	M Keown	Leeds United	1.50	0 0
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0 -0
11503	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	+5 -8
11601	K Poole	Leeds United	1.00	0 -3
11602	K Keller	Leeds United	1.00	0 -3
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	-5 +5
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0 0
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-3 -13
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0 +5
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	-6 0
11902	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	-23 -0
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	-11 -0
12101	S Hsieh	Newcastle United	4.00	0 -3
12102	P Smolac	Newcastle United	3.00	-1 +5
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-4 -21
12202	A Pettis	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0 0
12301	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0 0
12302	S Thomson	Rangers	0.50	0 -20
12401	A Gorm	Rangers	5.00	+1 +13
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-1 -9
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0 -10
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0 +2
12701	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	-5 -5
12801	A Cotton	Sunderland	1.00	0 +9
12802	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	+5 +15
12901	L Midosko	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	-1 -13
12902	S Moutone	West Ham United	0.50	0 0
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	-3 +7
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0 0



Paolo Di Canio scores for Celtic against Aberdeen on Saturday, boosting his ITF tally to a useful 18 points

				Wk	Wk
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	+4	+3
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-3
30404	N Barker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+2
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	+4	+13
30502	M Mackay	Celtic	1.50	0	+3
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	+4	+11
30601	M Duffery	Chelsea	2.50	+2	-3
30602	F Labouchere	Chelsea	2.50	0	+16
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	0
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	0	+6
30606	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	0	+10
30607	J Kjekshus	Chelsea	0.50	0	0
30701	L Dush	Coventry City	2.00	0	+5
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	+3
30703	D Busst	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
30801	I Stimpac	Derby County	2.50	0	-1
30802	D Wassall	Derby County	1.00	0	0
30803	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	+4	+2
30804	J Laurson	Derby County	1.00	+4	+7
30901	M Carbon	Derby County	0.50	0	0
30901	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	0	+9
31001	M Miller	Dunfermline	0.75	-1	-3
31002	I Den Blom	Dunfermline	0.75	-2	-7
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	+4	+11
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	+4	+5
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	+6	+12
31201	D McPherson	Hearts	1.00	+4	+4
31202	P Ritchie	Hearts	1.00	+4	+5
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0	-4
30902	B Walsh	Hibernian	0.75	0	-9
31302	K Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	0	+3
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	-3
31402	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	0.75	-1	-1
31501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	+4	+7
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2
31503	L Radebe	Leeds United	1.00	+4	-2
31601	P Peniston	Leeds United	1.00	0	+4
31602	S Walsh	Leeds United	1.00	0	+4
31603	P Karmark	Leeds United	0.50	0	0
31804	S Prior	Leeds United	1.00	0	+6
31701	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	+4	+10
31702	J Scates	Liverpool	3.50	0	0
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	+4	+9
31704	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
31705	D McIlrath	Liverpool	1.00	-2	+10
31801	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50	0	+3
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00	-1	+5
31803	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50	-1	+9
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-9
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	-3	-4
31903	D Wright	Middlesbrough	1.50	-3	-4
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-4
32001	B Martin	Motherwell	1.50	-2	+1
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0	+11
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50	+9	+9
32102	S Howie	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+7
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+12
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	-2	-5
32202	S Christie	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-1	-1
32203	S Blatherwick	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
32302	S Dennis	Raith Rovers	1.00	-1	-15
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	-1	+21
32402	A McLennan	Rangers	3.00	0	0
32403	J Black	Rangers	3.00	-1	+12
32404	G Pender	Rangers	2.50	-2	+6
32501	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	+1	+2
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+5
32503	B Lingham	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0	0
32601	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	0	-1
32602	A Neilson	Southampton	0.50	0	+1
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	0	+1
32604	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.50	0	+1
32605	U van Gobel	Southampton	1.50	-1	-3
32701	A Melville	Sunderland	1.00	0	+12
32702	K Ball	Sunderland	1.00	-2	+11
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	0.50	0	+12
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+13
32802	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+16
32803	G Mabbitt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0
32804	J Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
32805	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
32806	S Nicholls	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
32801	S Bille	West Ham United	2.50	0	+4
32902	M Rippey	West Ham United	2.50	0	+3
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	0	-2
32904	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50	0	0
32905	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0
33003	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
33004	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+2
33005	S McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+12
33006	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Wks	Q
40601	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50	0	+3
40602	D Wise	Chelsea	3.00	+1	+13
40603	G Peacock	Chelsea	2.50	0	0
40604	C Burley	Chelsea	2.00	+1	+12
40605	E Newton	Chelsea	2.00	0	+2
40606	D Rocastle	Chelsea	0.50	0	0
40607	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	3.00	+1	+20
40608	J Morris	Chelsea	2.00	0	0
40701	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	0	+16
41501	G McAllister	Coventry City	5.50	+0	+15
40702	E Jess	Coventry City	2.00	0	+7
40703	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	+0	+10
40704	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	+0	+10
40705	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
40706	M Isah	Coventry City	0.50	0	0
40707	W Boland	Coventry City	0.25	0	0
40708	M O'Neill	Coventry City	1.50	0	+
40801	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.00	+2	+15
40802	P Simpson	Derby County	1.50	0	+2
40803	R van der Laan	Derby County	1.50	0	+2
40804	D Powell	Derby County	1.00	+2	+11
40805	S Flynn	Derby County	0.75	+1	+5
40807	G Rowett	Derby County	0.50	+2	+11
40808	C Dally	Derby County	1.50	+2	+16
40901	G McSwegan	Dunfermline	2.00	+1	+15
40902	R Winters	Dunfermline	1.50	+2	+12
40903	G Johnson	Dunfermline	1.00	0	0
42303	J McNally	Dunfermline	0.75	0	+4
40904	D Bowman	Dunfermline	0.75	+1	+7
40905	A Bennet	Dunfermline	0.50	0	+2
41001	H French	Dunfermline	1.00	+1	+12
41002	C Robertson	Dunfermline	1.00	+1	+10
41003	A Smith	Dunfermline	0.75	+1	+12
41004	D Fleming	Dunfermline	0.50	0	+10
41101	A Kanchelskii	Everton	7.00	+2	+16
41102	G Speed	Everton	4.00	+2	+16
41103	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50	0	+6
41104	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	+2	+12
41105	A Linper	Everton	1.50	0	+1
41106	A Grant	Everton	0.50	0	+3
41107	V Sawyers	Everton	0.50	0	0
41202	A McManus	Hibernian	1.50	0	+4
41203	S Fulton	Hibernian	1.00	0	+2
41301	K McAllister	Hibernian	1.50	0	+9
41302	P McGinlay	Hibernian	1.50	0	+6
41303	G Love	Hibernian	0.75	0	0
41304	A Miller	Hibernian	0.50	0	+11
41401	J Cameron	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	+9
41401	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	+9
41402	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	1.00	+3	+10
41403	M Skilling	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	0
41404	J Lauchlan	Kilmarnock	0.50	0	+2
41502	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00	+1	+10
41503	A Gray	Leeds United	2.50	0	+1
41504	A Palmer	Leeds United	2.50	0	+1
41505	R Wallace	Leeds United	1.50	+2	+13
41805	L Sharpe	Leeds United	3.50	+4	+19
41506	J Harrie	Leeds United	1.00	0	+14
41507	M Ford	Leeds United	0.50	+4	+13
41508	A Couzens	Leeds United	0.50	0	+8
41509	M Tindler	Leeds United	0.50	0	+2
41510	N Annon	Leeds United	0.50	0	+2
41602	L Parkes	Leeds United	2.00	+2	+12
41603	S Taylor	Leeds United	2.00	+1	+12
41604	J Lawrence	Leeds United	0.25	0	0
40606	M Tzetz	Liverpool	1.00	0	+13
41701	S McManaman	Liverpool	7.00	+1	+19
41702	J McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	+1	+12
41703	J Beckinsale	Liverpool	4.00	+1	+12
41704	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	+1	+19
41705	M Thomas	Liverpool	2.50	+1	+17
41706	M Kennedy	Liverpool	1.00	0	0
41707	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	+1	+15
41801	R Giggs	Manchester United	7.00	+1	+10
41802	R Keane	Manchester United	4.00	+1	+12
41803	N Butt	Manchester United	4.00	+1	+22
41804	B McClair	Manchester United	3.50	0	+8
41806	B McClair	Manchester United	1.50	0	+3
41807	T Cooke	Manchester United	1.00	0	0
41808	B Thornley	Manchester United	1.00	0	0
41809	S Davies	Manchester United	0.50	0	0
41810	J Cruyff	Manchester United	2.50	+1	+15
41902	K Pollock	Manchester United	4.00	+2	+11
41901	Juninho	Middlesbrough	3.50	0	+13
41902	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	3.50	+1	+20
41903	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	0
41905	A Moore	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	0
41906	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	1.00	+1	+11
41908	C Liddle	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	0
41909	B Robson	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	0
41910	P Stamp	Middlesbrough	0.50	+1	+7
42001	C McCart	Motherwell	2.00	+1	+5
42002	J Philbin	Motherwell	1.00	0	+1
42003	J Dolen	Motherwell	1.00	0	+5
42004	J Hendry	Motherwell	0.75	0	+2

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